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ADRIAN ADONIS'
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Q & A: SGT. SLAUGHTER



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This original publicity ad must accompany your request. Copies or photostats are not acceptable.

These knives are not copies. These are *genuine* MALIN M-15™ SURVIVAL KNIVES—the same famous survival knives nationally advertised in leading media throughout America. They are the most popular (and most expensive) hunting/fishing/camping knives of their kind ever sold by this multi-million-dollar firm.

A foot long and r-r-r-r-r-razor sharp!

If you had to describe the MALIN M-15 in just one word, that word would have to be...*big!* Each MALIN M-15 is a whopping 12 inches long—a *foot* in length!—yet so perfectly balanced it cuts and thrusts like an extension of your own hand. Heft this beauty just once; you'll never want to put it down!

Each MALIN M-15 blade is crafted *entirely* of 420 molecular stainless! Thick as a silver dollar at the spine, it's tough enough to split wood or shatter bone. Yet the edge is so wickedly sharp it slices thin as a whisper!

Survival Kit hidden in the hollow handle

But that's not all! In the pommel of each MALIN M-15 is a precision ZF-360 Liquid Damped Compass. And when you unscrew the compass—there is an astonishing Survival Kit complete with packet of waterproof wrapped matches, half-a-dozen fishing hooks, sinkers, nylon test fishing line, sewing needle kit—even an 18-inch cable saw actually capable of cutting down a small tree. No wonder this is the best-selling

*Compass
Unscrews
To Reveal
Survival Kit*

survival knife of its kind ever sold by this multi-million dollar New York firm.

These Famous Nationally Advertised MALIN M-15 SURVIVAL KNIVES will not be sold at this price by the company in any store. There is a limit of two (2) per address at this price, but if your request is made early enough (before Nov. 17) you may order up to five. Each knife is covered by the company's unconditional one-year money-back guarantee.

To get your MALIN M-15 SURVIVAL KNIFE, mail this *original* publicity ad (no copies or photostats) together with you name and address and \$4 for each knife. Add only \$2 shipping and handling per knife. (New York residents add sales tax.) Allow up to 6-8 weeks for shipment. *Make check payable to CVP Co.* Mail to: CVP MALIN M-15, Dept. 205-100, Box 1201, Westbury, New York 11595. (V22830)

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It wasn't easy until now!

That's what so many men are saying after using *ShapeUp*, the marvelous, new compound, especially formulated by nutritionists, sports dietitians and biochemists for the sole purpose of helping men to more healthful, sturdier and better developed bodies.

MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthy. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

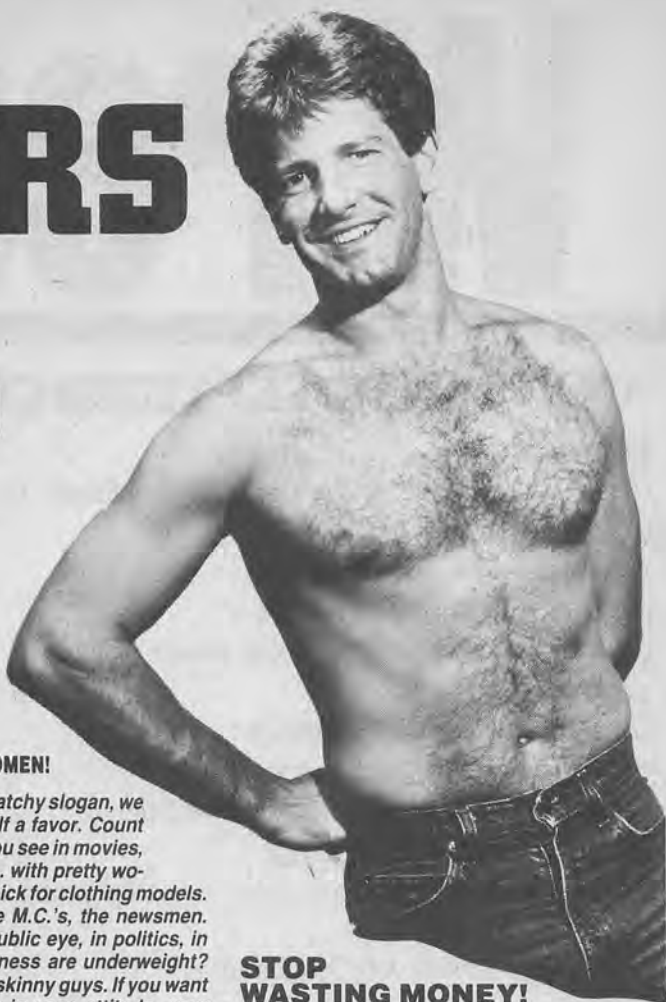
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with *ShapeUp*, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.



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Here's a low-cost way!

Some fellows, who've been trying hard to gain weight, resort to all sorts of methods to do so: professional exercise sessions, costly nutritional regimens, large investments in health foods, time-consuming weight-building programs. Yet, here, at an extremely affordable price, you are offered a product so elementary, so easy-to-take, yet so effective we offer it to you without any greater effort than filling out and mailing a coupon. You don't even have to go to a store for it. And unlike any other method, product, means or procedure, we **GUARANTEE *ShapeUp*** to the point of total freedom from risk of any kind.

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☐ Send me the 60-Tablets size for \$12.75

Wrestler^{THE}

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- Buddy Landell vs. Ron Bass
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YOUR LETTERS

Send Letters To:
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Rockville Centre, NY 11571

LIARS? OR JUST STUPID?

I have just finished watching *WWF Championship Wrestling* and I can't believe how far Vince McMahon will go to make a buck. He is constantly lying about one thing or another.

First he tells us that Siva Afi is Jimmy Snuka's cousin. His latest lie is that there is a new Funk brother named Jimmy Jack Funk. McMa-

hon's lame reason for him not wrestling in the past is that he was too dangerous and they had to keep him at the ranch. Any fool can see that this so-called Jimmy Jack Funk is none other than Jesse Barr wearing a Lone Ranger's mask.

McMahon also has a bad habit of not telling the whole story. He never told the fans that Randy Savage and

Lanny Poffo are brothers and he never told us that Bob Orton and Barry O are brothers.

The thing that gets me so mad is that Bruno Sammartino plays Vince McMahon's stooge. There is no way that anyone that has been around for as long as Bruno has can act so stupid as to what is going on. For Vince McMahon's sake, I hope that he straightens out and starts telling the truth before the only people watching his shows are the few people who believe his pitiful lies.

DAVID VAN ANTWERP
Oak Ridge, NJ



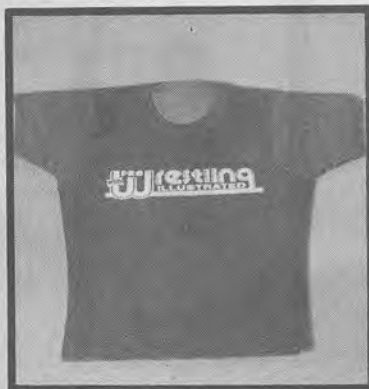
Lanny Poffo assists Randy Savage to the dressing room after a match last year in Louisville, Kentucky. Ignoring the fact that Poffo and Savage are brothers and telling the fans that Jesse (Jimmy Jack) Barr is a Funk has upset several knowledgeable fans.

I was recently watching a no-disqualification rematch between Randy Savage and Tito Santana on Madison Square Garden Network. During the match, Savage knocked out the referee. While the referee was out, Tito had Randy pinned for at least 15 seconds. Tito then went over to help up the ref. The ref got up, Tito had Randy down for the two count, and then Randy pinned Tito.

That got me mad. But what got me even madder was that announcers Gorilla Monsoon and Lord Al Hays were saying that Randy should have been disqualified earlier in the match. They must have said that five times.

(Continued on page 46)

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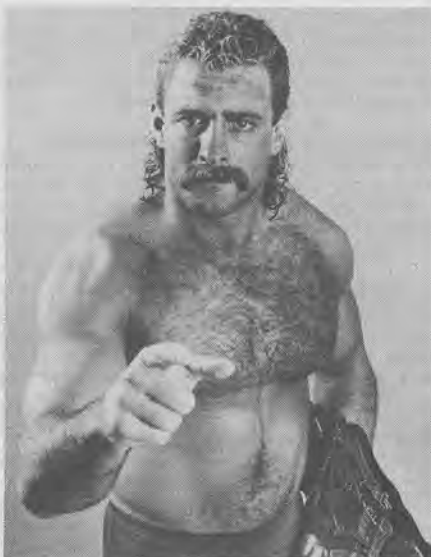
WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

FOLLOWING A SHOCKING series of developments, **Magnum T.A.** has been stripped of his U.S. heavyweight title—literally just hours before this magazine went to press. Here's what happened:

A press conference had been held by World Championship Wrestling to help iron out the details of a **T.A.-Nikita Koloff** U.S. title match. Among the people in attendance at the press conference were Nikita and **Ivan Koloff**, T.A., and Magnum's mother, Marion. During the proceedings, the Koloffs began insulting T.A.'s mother. Magnum lunged at Nikita, who hit him with a Russian sickle and left him nearly unconscious on the floor.

Several days later, T.A. was summoned to the Kansas City main office of the NWA by NWA President **Bob Geigel**. Geigel reprimanded T.A., saying that a U.S. champion, a representative of the NWA, should not act in such a fashion at a national press conference. Even after T.A. explained the situation, Geigel told Magnum he was considering stripping him of the title. Upon hearing that, T.A. went berserk and attacked Geigel. After that, Magnum was officially



Magnum T.A. was stripped of his U.S. title by Bob Geigel after he physically attacked the NWA president.

stripped of the title and now faces possible suspension.

"There are two factors at work here," Geigel said in a telephone interview immediately after the incident. "First of all, T.A.'s got to understand that as U.S. champion he is a representative of the NWA, and should conduct himself as such. He should have been above the Koloffs, and simply ignored their taunts. And, concurrently, he never should have placed a finger on me, no matter how angry he was. Secondly, this places every

NWA titleholder on notice: If your actions out of the ring are, in the extreme, unbecoming of a champion, then you will be stripped of your title. It's that simple. Yes, T.A. was made an example of, and all other champions should pay close attention to this situation. Very close attention."

Hear that, **Ric Flair**?

Another wrestler who is in trouble with officials is **Andre the Giant**. **Bobby Heenan** had demanded that Andre be banned from wrestling after the Giant pulled a no-show in a scheduled tag team match against **King Kong Bundy** and **John Studd**. Heenan's lawyers took the case all the way to WWF President Frank Tunney, and they were rewarded with a decision in their favor. Tunney decided to suspend Andre from wrestling, at least while he is studying the confusing situation. "This proves you can't fool with The Brain," said a triumphant Heenan.

Over in the AWA, a new pair of World tag team champions have been crowned: **Playboy Buddy Rose** and **Doug Somers** defeated **Scott Hall** and **Curt Hennig** in Hammond, Indiana, to capture the
(Continued on page 64)

BE TOUGH!

I MEAN REALLY *TOUGH!*

My method of DYNAMIC-TENSION gives you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

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CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Detroit, MI (Correspondent—Mike Babel): In the main event of a strong card at the Joe Louis Arena, Randy Savage took on Hulk Hogan for the WWF World championship.

Savage attacked Hogan before the bell rang and punished him unmercifully, but Hogan retaliated with a series of punishing elbows. Hogan then coolly put on Savage's sunglasses and embarrassed the "Macho Man" by throwing him from the ring. Savage tried to reenter the ring from off the top rope, but caused little damage when he landed on Hogan.

Hogan survived a flying elbow-smash and kicked out on a one-count when Savage tried to apply the pin. Savage tried another leap from the top rope, but landed on Hogan's awaiting foot. Savage crumbled to the mat and Hogan quickly applied the pin to retain his title.

In other bouts: Adrian Adonis was disqualified in his match against Hillbilly Jim ... The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff beat The Killer Bees ... Tito Santana pinned Cowboy Bob Orton ... George "The Animal" Steele pinned Jim Neidhardt ... Tony Atlas pinned Hercules Hernandez ... Brett Hart beat Siva Afi ... Jake Roberts DDT'd Scott McGhee ... Cpl. Kirschner beat Iron Mike Sharpe.



Miss Elizabeth shrieks at ringside as Randy Savage leaps right into Hulk Hogan's awaiting foot (above). Ivan and Nikita Koloff leave the ring after a brutal chain match (below).



Baltimore, MD (Correspondent—Rick Heiger): A violent lights-out double-chain tag team title match between The Road Warriors and Ivan and Nikita Koloff highlighted the NWA's card at the Civic Center.

The match opened in bizarre fashion. The Road Warriors charged the ring and attacked the Russians. When order was momentarily resumed, Animal tied himself to Ivan and Hawk tied himself to Nikita.

The two teams exchanged closed fists, clotheslines, and elbowsmashes with the chain. Hawk opened a gash on Nikita's forehead, while Animal brutalized Ivan with a powerslam and a series of punches. At one point, Hawk hung Nikita over the top rope, nearly choking him to death.

During the course of the match, the referee was knocked unconscious. Nikita threw Hawk out of the ring, untied the chain, and dealt a devastating clothesline to Animal, who kicked out when Ivan attempted the pin. Finally, the Warriors double-teamed Ivan, and Animal took the pin.

In other bouts: The Midnight Express beat Manny "The Ragin' Bull" Fernandez & Hector Guerrero ... Arn Anderson and Ron Garvin wrestled to a draw ... Black Bart beat Sam Houston in a Texas death match ... Denny

(Continued on page 54)

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area.

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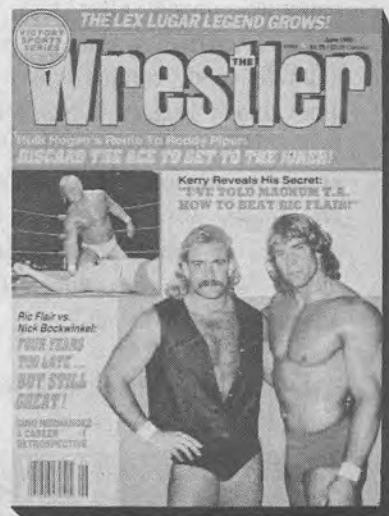
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Q: "I have a question for Ric Flair: Why do they call you 'Nature Boy,' just because you think you're so cool with the ladies? I like the way you wrestle, but I don't like the way you blab your mouth about Ricky Morton's teeny-boppers when all you have is the belt around your waist. Some ladies would throw themselves at you. I wouldn't be caught dead looking at you."—Jeri Lynn Adelberg, Chesaning, MI

A: Flair's response was surprisingly controlled: "Because I'm a champion and I don't feel like wasting my time with a person of low intelligence like yourself, Jeri Lynn, I'm going to try and answer your stupid questions. I'm called 'Nature Boy' because when I was young, my idol was Nature Boy Buddy Rogers. I patterned myself after him, and when I started wrestling, people naturally made comparisons to the great Buddy Rogers. It has nothing to do with the ladies, although my appeal is obvious. And what do you mean, all I have is the belt around my waist? What else is there? Nothing else counts. I am the greatest. That's all."

Q: "My question is for Kendall Windham: How do you feel about your

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brother's interferences in several of your recent matches?"—David Van Antwerp, Oak Ridge, NJ

A: "That's a very touchy subject," Kendall answered, "but I'll try to give you an answer without getting this whole thing started again. You see, because we're brothers, Barry's

first instinct is to come into the ring and help out when he sees me getting into trouble. Naturally, this hurts in the long run, because either I get disqualified or everybody talks about how I wouldn't have won without my brother helping. This caused hard feelings between the two of us for a while, but now things are back in order. I don't interfere in his matches and he doesn't interfere in mine."

Q: "I have a question for Kevin Von Erich: I want to know if you someday plan to wrestle Ric Flair again for his NWA belt, or are you going to forget about Flair and go after Rick Rude's World Class title?"—Olivia Ortiz, Waxahachie, TX

A: "Right now, I'm directing all of my energies toward winning the World Class title from Rick Rude," Kevin answered. "Although I know I can beat Flair, going after the NWA championship can be a frustrating experience, mostly because it's so easy for the champion to disqualify



Kevin Von Erich doesn't anticipate wrestling Ric Flair again. He feels the World Class title is on a par with the NWA title anyway.

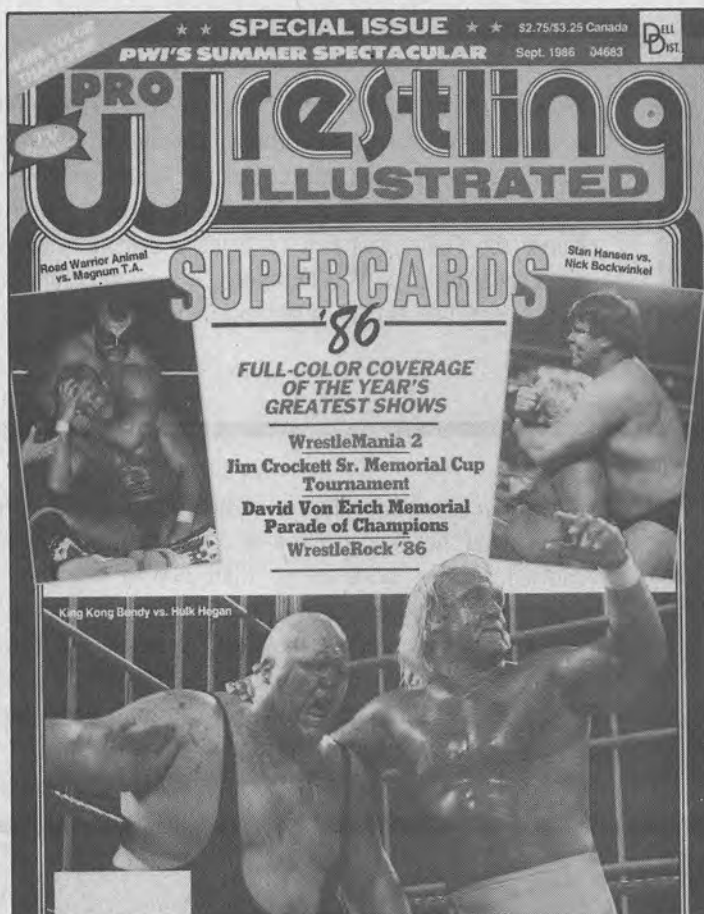
himself and keep the title. Also, I think that the World Class title is at least as important, and maybe more important, than the NWA belt. The quality of wrestling down here is as good as anywhere in the world and, of course, the champion can't run off and hide."

(Continued on page 52)



Kendall Windham gave up his Florida belt, rather than risk further strain on his relationship with Barry. The two brothers appear to have an understanding now.

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Thumbs Up

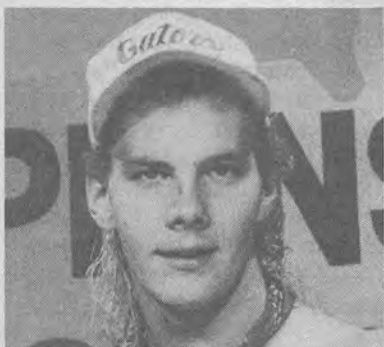
Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



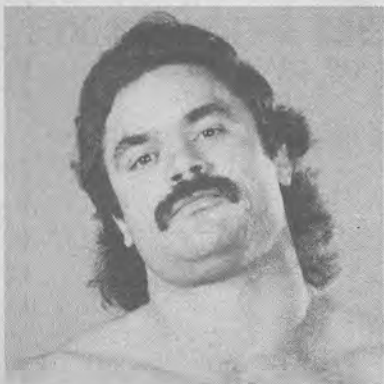
Thumbs Up to Andre the Giant: For years, the WWF has used Andre the Giant to draw huge crowds for otherwise ordinary cards and attract the daily press to this too-often ignored sport. Despite this, the WWF has never given Andre the respect he deserves and continues to deny him a shot at Hulk Hogan's title. Well, Andre the Giant was sick of being a punching bag and finally fought back by not appearing at a WWF taping. It's about time. Respect is earned, not given, and Andre has finally taken positive action.



Thumbs Up to Rick Morton: This Rock 'n' Roller has answered his many critics by proving that he can work as a solo artist as well as in a group. And he proved himself against none other than NWA World champion Ric Flair. Even if Morton is unsuccessful in lifting Flair's title, he will benefit from the security of knowing that he doesn't have to depend on tag team wrestling for the rest of his career. The obvious question now is, should Rick Morton continue to wrestle as a single? Rick hopes his fans will help him make the decision, and he hopes that all of you will fill out the ballot on page 36.



Thumbs Up to Kendall Windham: The relationship between Kendall and Barry Windham had reached the breaking point, but the two brothers managed to settle their difficulties in a manner that was a credit to their family and professional wrestling. In a sport where family ties seem to be so easily broken, Kendall and Barry proved again that blood is thicker than water. And Kendall's decision to put the Florida title up for grabs was a responsible action.



Thumbs Up to Rick Rude: Apparently, the World Class' no-disqualification rule curbed some of Rude's rulebreaking tactics. In his title bout with Bruiser Brody at the David Von Erich Memorial Parade Of Champions, Rude wrestled fairly and managed to stay within the prescribed guidelines of the sport. If not for manager Percy Pringle's incessant banter and brief interference late in the match, Rude's performance would have been flawless. Rude escaped a pin three times, which speaks volumes for his perseverance as a champion.

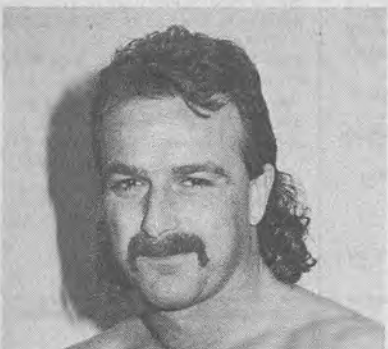
Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Eddie Gilbert: It's bad enough that the Russians, Iranians, Middle Easterners, South Africans, New Zealanders, etc., come to this country and attack our way of life, but when an American joins forces with the enemy, it's time to draw the line. Mr. Gilbert's style and courage have been in question for the past year, but his recent actions are unforgivable. Gilbert has repeatedly condoned the actions of Korchenko, a Russian wrestler who repeatedly drapes the Soviet flag over his beaten opponents. This cannot be tolerated.



Thumbs Down to J.D. Costello: His attempt to buy off Jerry Lawler was a move only New York Yankee owner George Steinbrenner could endorse. The free agent system is alive and well in major league baseball, but contracts still have some meaning in professional wrestling. Hasn't Costello learned that you can't buy another person's allegiance? And one more thing: Pink stockings and garter belts might be required dress for *La Cage Aux Folles*, but wrestling is not a sport for a man who would dress in such a way.



Thumbs Down to Jake Roberts: Enough is enough! Roberts has every right to bring his pet boa constrictor to ringside, as long as the beast is caged. But when Roberts wraps the snake around his opponent's body, he's exceeded the bounds of decency. Perhaps this thumbs down should go to WWF officials for refusing to condemn Roberts for his sick actions. For years, the WWF has been characterized by its spineless actions and, ironically, the snake is an invertebrate animal.



Thumbs Down to Dusty Rhodes: Although The American Dream is to be commended for defending the honor of Baby Doll, it's sad to see this once-dedicated wrestler overcome by his current obsession. Jim Cornette's actions were criminal. There can be no doubt about that. But Rhodes would be better off settling this entire matter outside the ring, perhaps in the parking lot or even in a courtroom. Revenge is fine, but if Rhodes' main goal isn't the NWA singles or tag team title, he is wasting his career. □

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September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.



OCTOBER 1982

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

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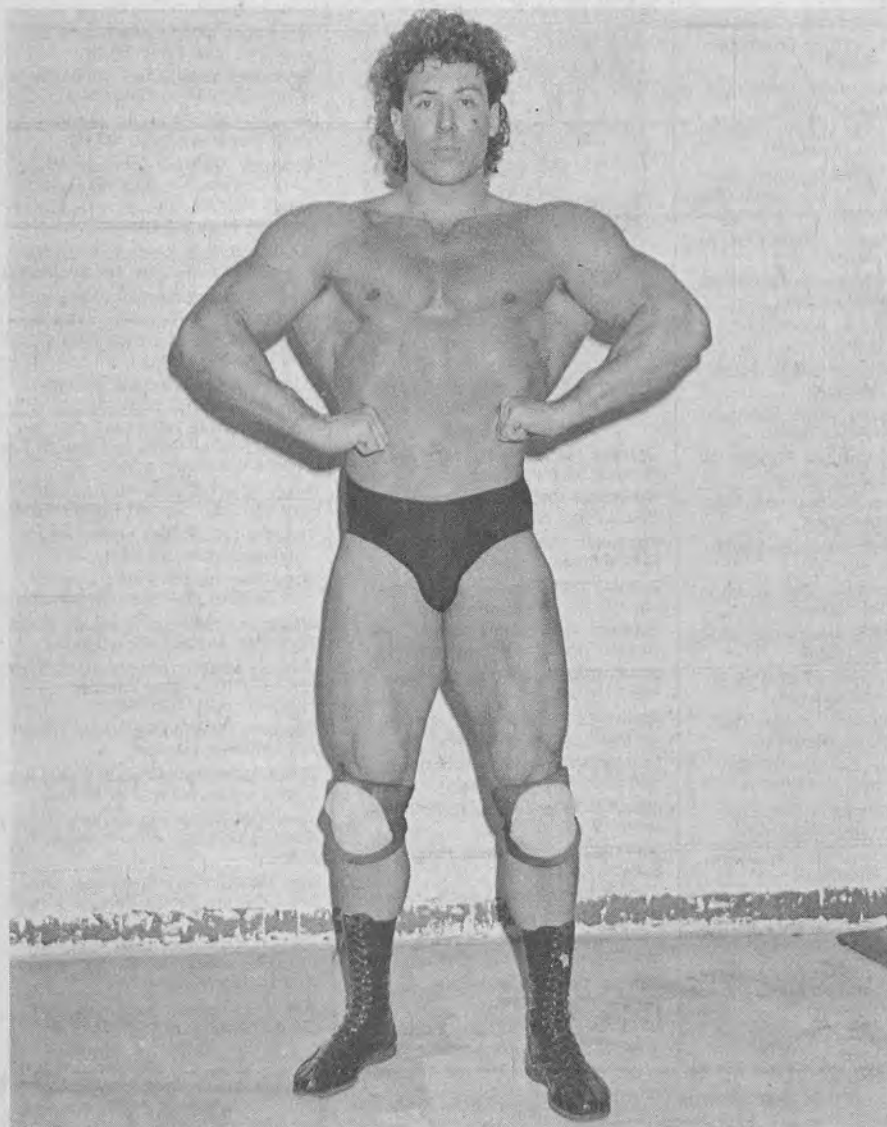
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INTRODUCING TOM MAGEE



Tom Magee shows off the physique that earned him several bodybuilding championships in Canada. He does not want to be stereotyped by his football and bodybuilding background. He was also a track star, a gymnast, a powerlifter, a judo expert, a kickboxer—and he wrestled a bit.

ANOTHER PRO FOOTBALL player.

Another weightlifter.

Another boring muscleman.

The typical first impression of Tom Magee.

Certainly, he's another patriotic American, ready to defend his country against the Russian invasion. We'll be hearing it all real soon. Something like this: "These foreigners have no right to put down my country and insult my fans. I'm going to put an end to this." Blah, blah, blah.

Wrong.

First of all, he's a Canadian, a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Thus far, the foreign wrestlers have said little about Canada. Second, he's not just another weightlifter. In fact, Tom Magee is the holder of every Canadian powerlifting record in the 275-pound and heavyweight class and broke Doug Hepburn's 27-year-old British Columbia super heavyweight Olympic lifting records.

No, he's not another boring muscleman, either. Tom Magee won the 1984 Mr. British Columbia bodybuilding contest and the Challenge Louis Cyre Strong Man contest. He was the subject of the

(Continued on page 20)

This rookie from Canada is quickly squashing the muscleman-turned-wrestler stereotype with an acrobatic style that has stunned opponent after opponent. And in a bumper crop of many musclemen-turned-wrestlers, Tom Magee may turn out to be the best of all

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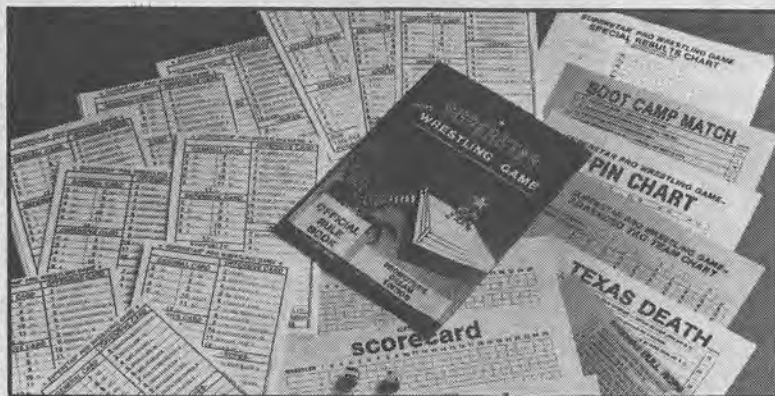
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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

documentary *Man Of Iron* and is proficient in a variety of sports.

Sorry, folks, he was a professional football player, but nobody's perfect. Magee played for the B.C. Lions of the Canadian Football League, but his career was short-lived.

So now he's come full-circle and is back to wrestling. Magee wrestled in junior high school in the 148-pound class and finished fourth in the British Columbia finals. Some 130 pounds later, the 6'4" 26-year-old is ready to go after the heavyweights.

"I was impressed by the new prominence pro wrestling has attained recently," said Magee, explaining his return to the mat. "In addition to this, I believed my athletic background would make me a good wrestler. I've boxed, lifted weights, played football, done some judo and kickboxing, gymnastics, and even track and field. A wrestler can't rely on one or two strengths. He must have a solid background."

Magee wasted no time backing up his words and breaking the stereotype of the huge, muscular wrestler who can only overpower his opponent. Advocates of this style have, with few exceptions, achieved only limited success in this sport.

Magee quickly put his vast skills on display in his debut match against Butch Moffat. "It's something I'll never forget," said Magee. "I won by doing a back somersault off of the top rope, followed by a roll up to a pin. The people were amazed. I guess they thought I'd try to throw Moffat all over the ring, but I decided to concentrate on my wrestling skills."

"I like to do a lot of acrobatic moves, which requires timing," Magee explains. "There's very little room for error. Occasionally, I



screw up and it can prove embarrassing and dangerous if your opponent capitalizes. It happens rarely, though, and if it does, I just continue on as if nothing happened. That lessens the impact."

Although Magee has done most of his wrestling in Western Canada, he readily admits to a particular affinity for Japan. "Japan is definitely my favorite place to wrestle," says Magee, "and I had my toughest match there, too. I was wrestling Riki Chosu in the main event with a television audience of about 12 million. It was a close match, hard fought, but he took advantage of my inexperience. It was the first and only pinfall loss without interference in my career. I look forward to wrestling him again."

Magee's dedication to training figures to carry him a long way. He's accustomed to spending long hours in the weight room and has been on a strict diet since an early age. Certainly, his long list of weightlifting honors attests to this.

Twice the Canadian National Powerlifting champion. Second in

Magee, applying a headlock on Steve DiSalvo, is extremely flexible despite his musculature.

the World's Strongest Man contest. First in the World Powerlifting championships. Holder of the world record for a deadlift from the knees, a staggering 1,179¾ pounds. If you live in the United States, you might have seen him on *That's Incredible*. If you haven't seen him, it should only be a matter of time. He's totally devoted to professional wrestling.

"I have many hobbies and interests," says Magee, "but now, I only do the ones that will help my performance in the wrestling ring: martial arts, diving, gymnastics, weight training, cycling. I'm working hard, trying to develop all aspects of my wrestling."

So there goes the stereotype, right down the proverbial drain.

Not just another boring muscleman.

Not just another weightlifter.

He's not concerned with the political scene.

So forgive him, he was a professional football player.

But wasn't everybody? □

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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Sgt. Slaughter fires away at Abdullah from his knees. The Sarge calls The Butcher a "brutal destruction machine" and feels it's his personal responsibility to rid him from the sport.

Q: I've never seen so many American flags in my life. What exactly is the function of this place?

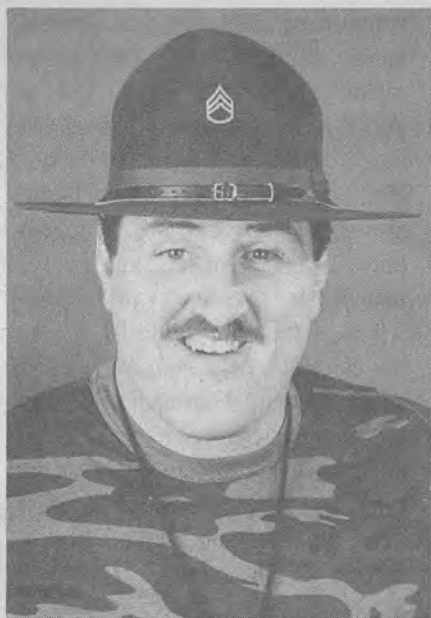
A: This, friend, is a VFW hall. Veterans of Foreign Wars. The men who fought overseas for this land, who risked their lives and limbs in Guadalcanal, Anzio, Phnom-Penh, Grenada, and other dirty, bombed-out corridors so that you could breathe free air. There are halls like these in every city and town in America, and as far as I'm concerned, they are as holy as any church or temple.

Q: Have you got anything special planned for the Fourth?

A: Oh! What a day that will be! Of course I'll be right there on Liberty Island joining in the celebration. The statue will be restored to her original condition. What a perfect metaphor for the condition of our country. That day will give all rule-breaking scum pause to think. I'd like to get Hansen over there for the day so he can see what has made this country so damn great.

Q: Preferably without his AWA belt.

A: Damn right. I'll tell you, I've had some trouble getting Hansen into the ring lately. I think he knows better than to fool with me this time of the year. I'm in heat



SGT. SLAUGHTER

IT'S SGT. SLAUGHTER'S time. As the count winds down for the big Fourth of July bash over New York Harbor, our grappling ambassador has been steeped in busy preparation. His favorite lady, Miss Liberty, is celebrating her centennial and Slaughter would like nothing more than to giftwrap the AWA belt as his birthday present. His feud with champion Stan Hansen promises to heat up as Independence Day approaches.

And there are other things besides. After months of fruitless negotiations in the AWA, Slaughter moved to the small NWF promotion to secure a series of brutal death matches against the notorious Sudanese sadist, Abdullah the Butcher. Slaughter continues in his role as American Patriot, intrepid watchdog of constitutional freedoms and human rights. The battle to uphold this country's honor is a never-ending one, Slaughter explained to Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner. The two spoke in the offices of the upstate New York VFW headquarters, where later that night Slaughter delivered a rousing 25-minute oration to Abdullah's head, as eloquent an evocation of nationalism as the capacity crowd had ever witnessed.

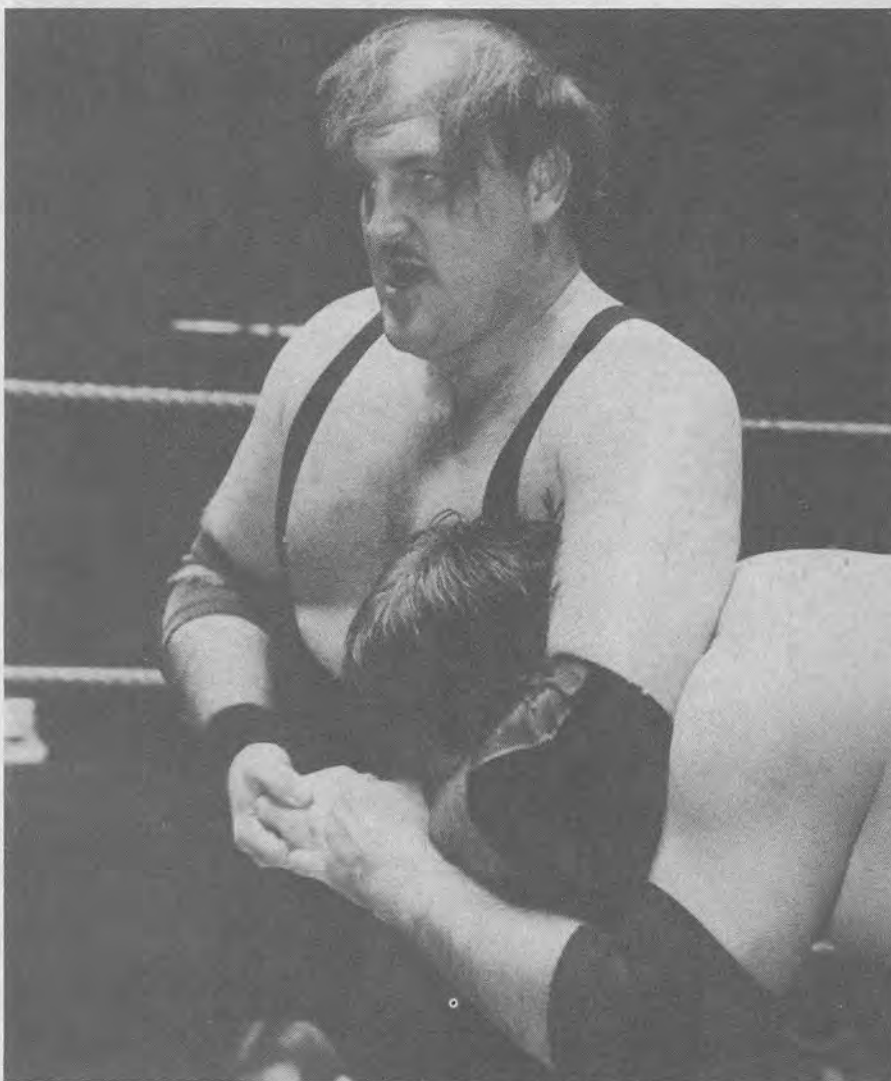
around Independence Day. Let anyone, especially an American citizen like Hansen who goes around knocking the Few, the Proud, and the Mighty, tangle with me. The Corps can teach a disrespectful loafer like Hansen some much-needed lessons. He doesn't deserve to wear that belt. It would be a life-long dream for me to wear that band of gold at the Statue's birthday party. I'd even strap it around Mr. Reagan's waist. That would be some thrill.

Q: Given Hansen's penchant for disqualifications, what do you have to do to come away with the victory and the belt?

A: Offense. Attack at the bell and don't stop until Hansen is knocked cold. He's a gritty competitor, and the only way anyone is going to beat him is to best him at his own game. You pin Stan Hansen. He'll never submit. You could break both his legs and arms and he still won't quit. You have to knock him out and hope the referee is still around to count the pin.

Q: It's a real war when you two get together. Do you prefer that kind of match to a straight scientific encounter?

A: You don't survive basic training



Slaughter is extremely bothered by the remarks Stan Hansen has made about the U.S. Marine Corps. Slaughter, headlocking Hansen, would gladly trade his cherished Americas title in for the AWA World championship.



"Nearly half the times Abdullah brings a foreign object into the ring, he winds up having it used against him," says Sgt. Slaughter, trying to drive home a point.

without an ability to take punishment. "No guts, no glory," as the saying goes. Face it—I love a knock-down, drag-out brawl as much as the next man. But wrestling is a sweet science. War is not always ugly. Wars are won not only in the trenches, but in the map room. I've always prided myself as a topflight strategist. I love the challenge of a complicated scientific match. Unfortunately, I'm pitted against foreign scum who haven't the brains to observe the rules. But that's the way I like it. I don't mind spilling a little blood in defense of ideals.

Q: I know you've spoken out at many schools against the dangers of drug use. What are feelings about the suspected drug use in your own sport?

A: This is a very bad thing. I feel certain that the problem right now is confined to a very small group of individuals. We must support these men in their battle against drug and alcohol abuse. They are the worst sort of rulebreakers, because they endanger many other people besides their opponents. It is important that this problem is not ignored. Frankly, I can't see how people can abuse themselves. There is so much to live for. Drugs are this country's worst enemy.

Q: If I didn't know better, I'd say Abdullah the Butcher must be taking something. Can anyone be that crazy naturally?

A: Yes, sir. Abdullah is simply different than everybody else. He is not so much anti-American as he is anti-world. He is dangerous because he doesn't care. Nothing matters to him, not even life itself. He is a brutal destruction machine. I wouldn't want my sister-in-law to meet him on the street. I worry about the children in the neighborhoods where he wrestles. I've tried to convince immigration authorities to revoke his working visa, but so far he hasn't broken any laws. But I know if something isn't done soon it will be a case of "I told



Slaughter mounts the turnbuckles and launches an offensive against one of his hated rivals, Russian Boris Zuhov.

you so." That is why I've come to this town to track him down. I don't want to comfort some grieving family after Abdullah has attacked their child. He must be stopped. And only I can stop him.

Q: Is the pressure of being an idol, a hero to millions and millions of fans, ever incapacitating? Do you sometimes wish you weren't so recognizable?

A: Never. Not a once. I'm grateful that I've been given the opportunity to defend this country. It's a responsibility that I cherish and value. Being a role model is not at all difficult for me. I've never had a problem living a wholesome life. My attitude is "you can't go wrong if you do the right thing." It's the creed I live by. Those who say they don't know what the right thing is are just rationalizing their improper behavior. The foundation of this land was built by honorable people. Read Ben Franklin's autobiography if you wish to learn right from wrong. Or watch one of Sgt. Slaughter's matches. The difference between right and wrong will be obvious. □

Wrestling 86

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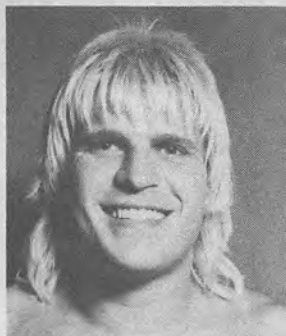
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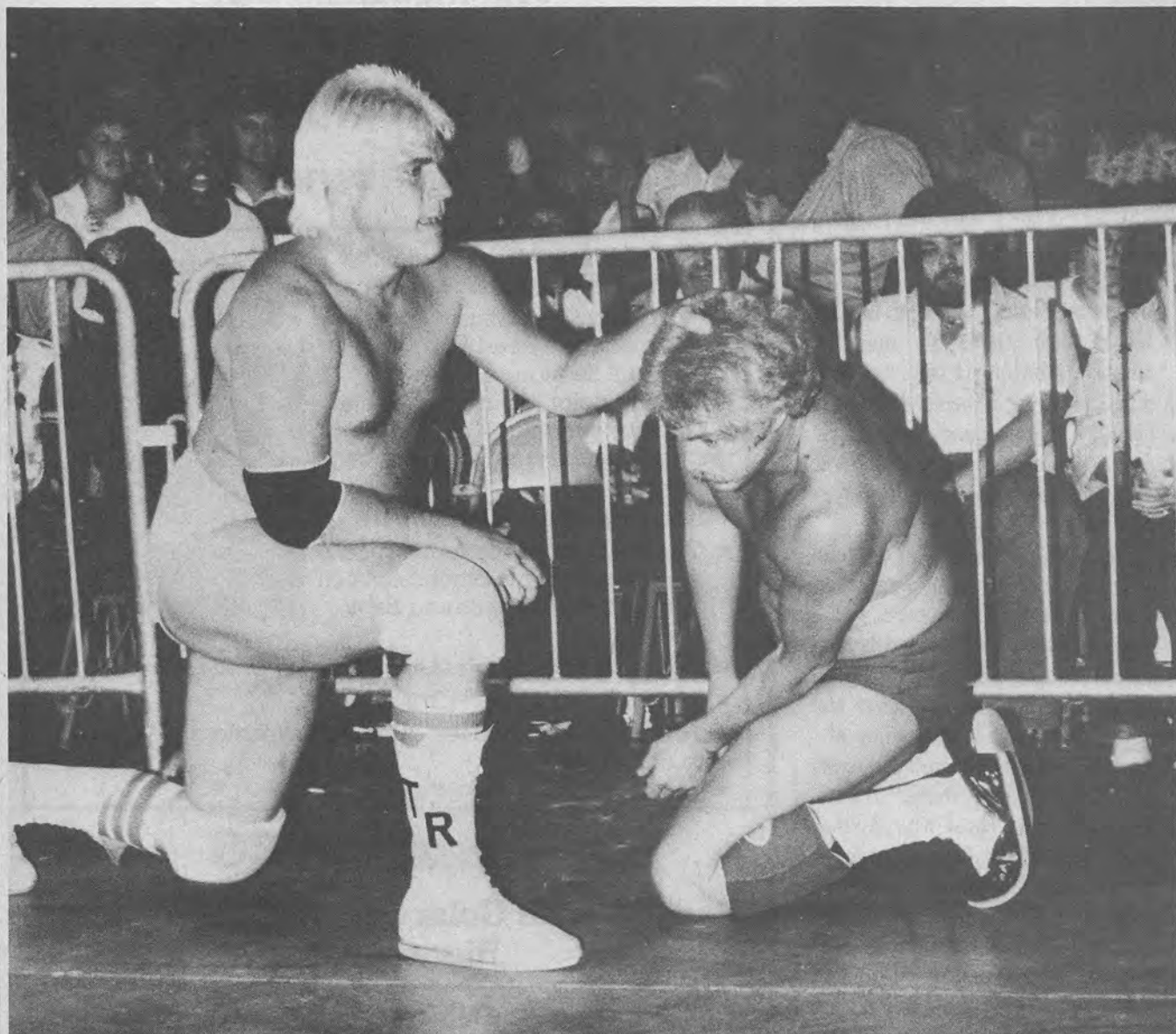
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



TOMMY RICH

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



After rising to the top of the sport in the late-1970s and early-1980s and holding the NWA World championship for a four-day period after defeating Harley Race, Tommy Rich's career began to slide rapidly. Unfortunately for the Georgia fan favorite, brutal feuds—particularly with Buzz Sawyer—had torn him apart physically and psychologically. As Rich (batting Ron Fuller) returns to national attention, the "X-Ray" panelists offer differing views on the young veteran.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"You know, I haven't seen Tommy Rich in person in a long time, but the other day I saw some tapes of his matches and I was very, very impressed. I heard that he took some time off and came back slowly, and I think that was a very good idea. If I had done the same thing about 15 years ago, I might still be champion. He's a strong wrestler, and I think he's recovered from the injuries he suffered back in the Georgia area."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"I always thought that Rich was a bit of a pretty boy, and now I know it. He never had me fooled the way he acted in the ring. He'd go in there, get his brains beaten in, spill some blood, and walk off like he was a big man. The man would really take a beating. Now he's wrestling in this Continental area. He once was World champion and now he's ranked seventh in a minor region. His real inabilities have come out."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



GENE KINISKI

"In this sport, the men who make it are the men who prove they can take punishment and keep on improving. Tommy Rich looked like he was going to be one of the greatest wrestlers ever, but apparently the rough guys softened him up. In just five years, he's gone from NWA champion to nothing. I think all those feuds he was involved with did a number on his psyche, not to mention his body. It's time for him to move on to another career."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.



BUDDY ROGERS

"Back when Rich was in Georgia, he had a million feuds going and it seemed like every night he was involved in a war. Then, when he finally became champion, he was worn out and had nothing left. Those matches with Buzz Sawyer were incredible, but they took their toll on Rich. Now he's going in the right direction. He's taken control of his career and is looking to rebuild himself. He has the tools to become a champion again, and it wouldn't surprise me if he did."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



LOU THESZ

"I once had a lot of respect for Rich, but not any more. He really seemed determined to learn the sport and move on up, but I think that somewhere along the line he lost the will to become great. Look at his NWA title reign. It lasted four days. He worked extremely hard to reach the top and just when he made it, he was knocked off. Rich knows the moves, but I don't think he's willing to improve himself. He's content, and nothing is worse for a wrestler than that."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



VERNE GAGNE

"I hear a lot of people knocking Tommy Rich because he seems to have fallen so far, but I think the man deserves a lot of credit. He knew when to back off and work his way back into shape. Most wrestlers aren't smart enough to do that—take a brief detour before going on—but Rich was. I think that when Rich completes his comeback, he'll be better than ever. His scientific abilities were obscured during his years of feuding, but now I see him developing them once again."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years by the wrestling media.

SPOT LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

RANDY SAVAGE

FROM BIRTH, Randy Savage was destined for a career in professional wrestling. His father, Angelo Poffo, was one of the legends of the game, giving Randy the opportunity to learn about the sport from a rare perspective. Savage attended his father's matches and learned the ins and outs of wrestling. Although Angelo Poffo was known as a ruthless rulebreaker, he taught his sons Randy and Lanny the finer points of the sport.

But when the time came to make a career choice, Angelo's sons went in different directions. While Lanny chose a career in wrestling, Randy picked professional baseball. This was only a brief detour, however. Fate had already decided that Randy Savage would be a pro wrestler, just like his great father.

After a five-year stint in the minor leagues of the St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds, and Chicago White Sox, Savage finally realized that his place was in the wrestling ring. Joining his brother, the two won the Southeastern tag team championship, a title they would hold for two months. Then, after losing the belt, Randy and Lanny went their separate ways. The family would never again be the same.

In 1978, Lanny won the International Championship Wrestling World title and Randy returned to the ICW area to demand a shot at his brother's belt. In what was considered to be the greatest match of his career, Savage



Above: Savage (can you believe it's him?) illegally takes Sweet Daddy Siki down in 1976. Below: The Macho Man pounces on Jerry Lawler during their ugly feud in the Mid-Southern area in 1985.



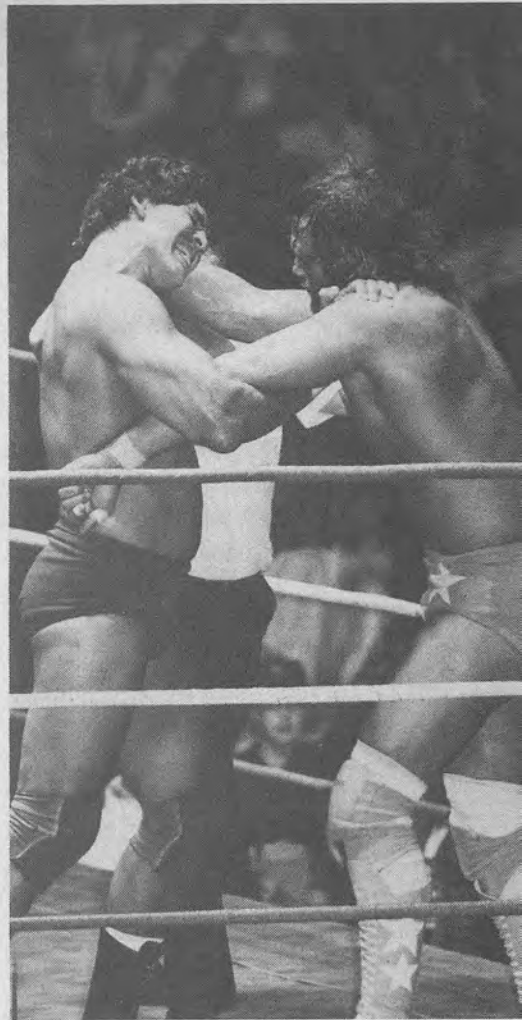
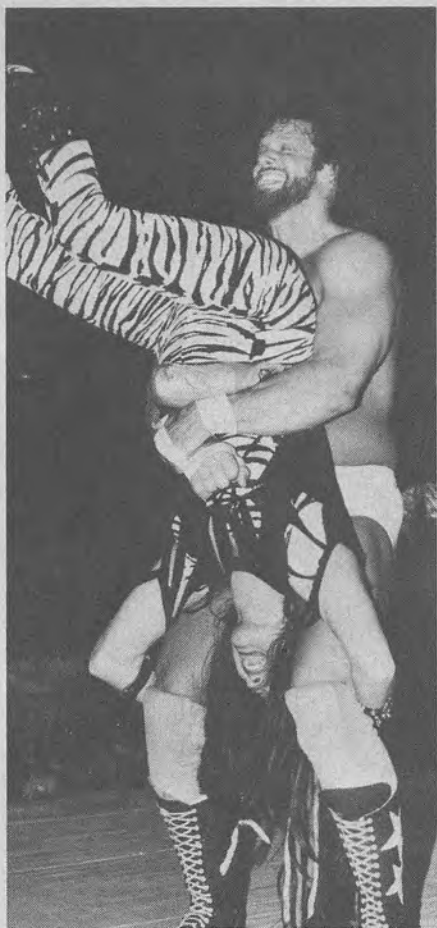
beat Poffo for the title and went on to hold it for four years. Ironically, in 1983 Savage lost the title to Paul Christy, the same man he defeated in his pro debut 10 years earlier.

Although Savage held the Mid-Southern title on several occasions over the next two years, his career didn't take off until he made another vital career decision. Savage moved on to the WWF and took on Miss Elizabeth as his business manager. He was an instant star. Before long, Savage was meeting the best wrestlers in the WWF, and on February 8, 1986, at Boston Garden, he defeated Tito Santana for the coveted WWF Intercontinental championship.

Savage was not making any friends with the fans, however, and that victory did not add to his appeal. Savage won the title by beating Santana over the head with a foreign object and then going in for the pin. As of this writing, Savage still holds the belt, but in the minds of many people there should be an asterisk next to his name.

This, however, takes away little from Savage's ability as a wrestler. Tough, mean, and aggressive, as his name implies, Savage was recently engaged in a series of epic battles with WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and certainly didn't disgrace himself.

This month, *The Wrestler* "Spotlights" one of true superstars of the professional wrestling ranks, Randy Savage. □



Above left: Savage drew heavy criticism for piledriving Adrian Street's valet, Miss Linda. Above center: Fans were restricted from the Mid-South Coliseum when Randy and his brother, Lanny Poffo, wrestled each other two years ago. Right: Savage won the Intercontinental title from Tito Santana. Below: The Macho Man has given Hulk Hogan some of his toughest battles.



Tag Team Survival Game

TOMMY ROGERS WAS silent, in the way that elected officials are silent when first told about a major scandal in their administration. Rogers was on the telephone, and had been asked for a quote regarding the fact that The Fabulous Freebirds had just signed the most lucrative tag team contract in the history of UWF wrestling.

Tommy Rogers was silent, in the way that some men are silent when they have to sift through a bird's nest of conflicting emotions and reactions. Rogers, one half of the UWF tag team championship Fantastics, did not expect an invasion of their territory from Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts. He literally was at a loss for words.

Tommy Rogers was silent, in the way that causes one to believe that he was also just a little bit worried.

"Hot damn! *WHOOOOOO!* C'mon back here, darlin', give us another flash of that fine New Orleans thigh! *HYAAAAAAWW!* Damn, sister, you gonna give me a stroke yet before the night's out! Fine! Mighty fine! Yo, waitress, slip on back here and bring me an' my brothers another round of triple JDs. JDs! Damn—Jack Daniels! What the hell else you think it is? Man, step outta Texas and some o' these women just don't understand the facts o' life."

Michael Hayes was having a good time. So were Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts. After all, it's not every day that they have the opportunity to celebrate the signing of a million-dollar contract.

"The fattest damn hog of a contract this part o' the country's ever seen!"



THE FANTASTICS



Bobby Fulton gets the better of Butch Miller in a bloody slugfest between The Fantastics and The Shepherders (above left). In a rare display of savagery, Tommy Rogers rubs the palm of his hand into Miller's cut forehead (above right).



GET READY FOR THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS

Hayes howled. He jumped up from his chair, shot a clenched fist into the air, whipped his head back in a manner that made his long blond hair seem to stand on end, and spun around on his left foot the way David Lee Roth might have had he been filming a new video right then and there.

"YOWWWWWWEEEE!! Ha! Nabe nabe! Hahahaha! Freebird Fantasia, brother, it's happening, it's happening strong!"

Bobby Fulton walked into Tommy

Rogers' living room with a duffel bag that seemed to be packed with more than dirty workout clothes. As Fulton set the bag on the floor, there was a loud clanking noise.

"Sounds like you brought the tapes, Bobby," Rogers said.

"The tapes and then some," Fulton replied as he unzipped the bag to reveal nearly two dozen VHS cassettes. "This is the stuff I've been telling you about." Fulton chose one of the tapes at random and popped it into Rogers' videocassette player.

And for the rest of that afternoon, and into the night, and past midnight, and into the next day, Rogers and Fulton watched, took notes, and analyzed. Recent matches involving themselves against The Shepherders, and themselves against Buzz Sawyer and Rick Steiner. Older matches of themselves against The Midnight Express. Recent tapes of The Freebirds against the Von Erichs, and The Freebirds against The Road Warriors.

When they emerged from their
(Continued on page 58)

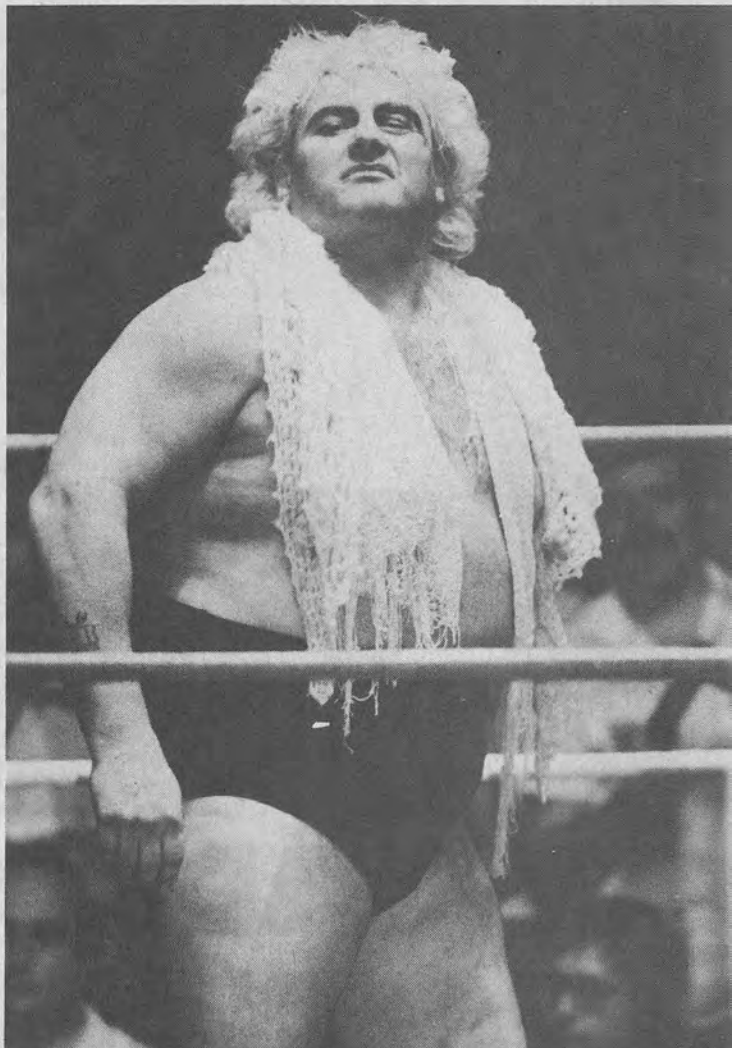
When The Fabulous Freebirds set their sights on a goal, they generally leave broken bodies and broken dreams in their wake. But UWF tag team champs The Fantastics don't seem willing to give in to them so easily

From **LEATHER**

To *LACE*



ADRIAN ADONIS: 1982

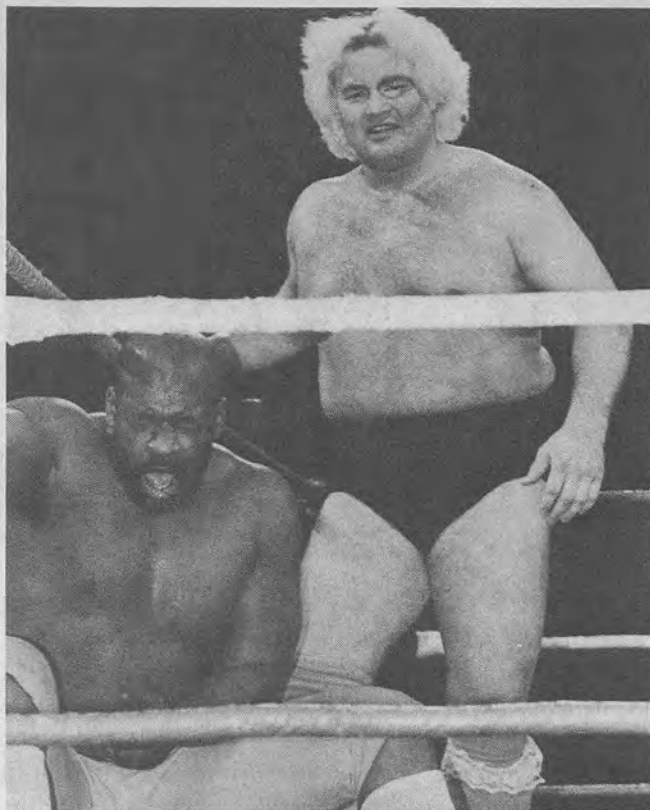


ADRIAN ADONIS: 1986

ADRIAN ADONIS' STARTLING TRANSFORMATION

By Eddie Ellner

In search of a place to watch boxing on cable-TV, Eddie Ellner and Matt Brock found themselves in a bar where Adorable Adrian Adonis was the "people's champion"



IT HAPPENED ONE night. After dinner, Matt Brock and I taxied downtown in Manhattan to the Sporting Club to catch Mike Tyson make sour mash out of Mitch "Blood" Green. The departure from wrestling to boxing came about naturally; both Brock and I admired Tyson's natural ferocity—the kid would make a terrific wrestler—and watching his bouts were as good a way as any to suck down a couple of drafts.

Apparently, it wasn't fated that way. The HBO at the Sporting Club was on the blink, sending us out into West Greenwich Village in desperate search for a television and a bar, although not necessarily in that order. It seemed we were out of luck. Either the good drinking bars didn't have cable or the bars with cable had too many yuppies. Just the other week Matt had gotten carted away by three of New York's Finest after an ugly incident at a trendy uptown drinkatorium.

"It's the Yuppies," Matt cried to Peter King, who posted bail. "They're driving me crazy."

My own patience was being

Adrian Adonis, wearing what appears to be a hand-me-down from his grandmother, puts his boots to Tito Santana (above left). Wearing frilly legwarmers, Adorable Adrian dominates George Wells (above right). Referee Dick Kroll is reluctant to get his body between Adonis and Lanny Poffo (below).



tested, though, as every bar that fit our simple needs Brock vetoed. "No character," he'd say. "Too shallow."

"Matty, I'm not looking for a wife," I cried, exasperated. "Just

a place with a screen and clean glasses."

At 9:50, (the fight was scheduled for 10:30), we stood at the corner of Christopher St. and 6th
(Continued on page 56)

Rick Morton Challenges Ric Flair And Asks His Fans:



RIC FLAIR GRABS Rick Morton's head and rakes his scarred face across the top rope. Morton howls from the pain, but the twisted grimace on his face suggests that the pain is greater than even his outcries would indicate. Several women at ringside shriek in horror; several others begin to cry.

"Come on, Ricky, come on! Fight back! Fight the pain! Kick Flair right in the . . . !"

The incredibly popular Morton may have more fan support these days than anyone else in the sport. With their help, Morton does fight back the pain. Flair continues his offense by whipping Morton into the turnbuckles. Morton's back slams into the corner, and Flair moves in for the attack. Morton jumps to the side, and Flair's head misses a collision with the steel ringpost by the tiniest fraction of an inch.

Angered, Flair moves in again. He grabs Morton and whips him into the corner. But Morton is ready this time and hurls himself up to the second rope in the corner. In a split-second precision movement, Morton turns and delivers a flying bodypress. Flair is caught by surprise! Morton covers the champion. The referee slaps the mat . . . once . . . twice . . .

"This is gonna play havoc with my tax returns," Rick Morton jokes, "I wonder what the limit is for deductions of bandages and salve." Humor is a familiar companion these days, helping to hide the pain that still sends jagged knives of anguish cutting through his face.

The wound on Morton's face came about as the result of a dressing room attack spearheaded by Ric Flair. Morton had scored a pinfall over Flair in a six-man elimination match, and the



His face bandaged after Ric Flair's heinous assault, Morton applies a headlock against the champion.

NWA champ became incensed, deciding to take his rage out on Morton and a concrete floor.

Since that attack, Morton has attempted to score another pinfall over Flair in an NWA title match. And, if unable to do that, simply to humiliate and hopefully injure the champion in the same way that he himself had been injured.

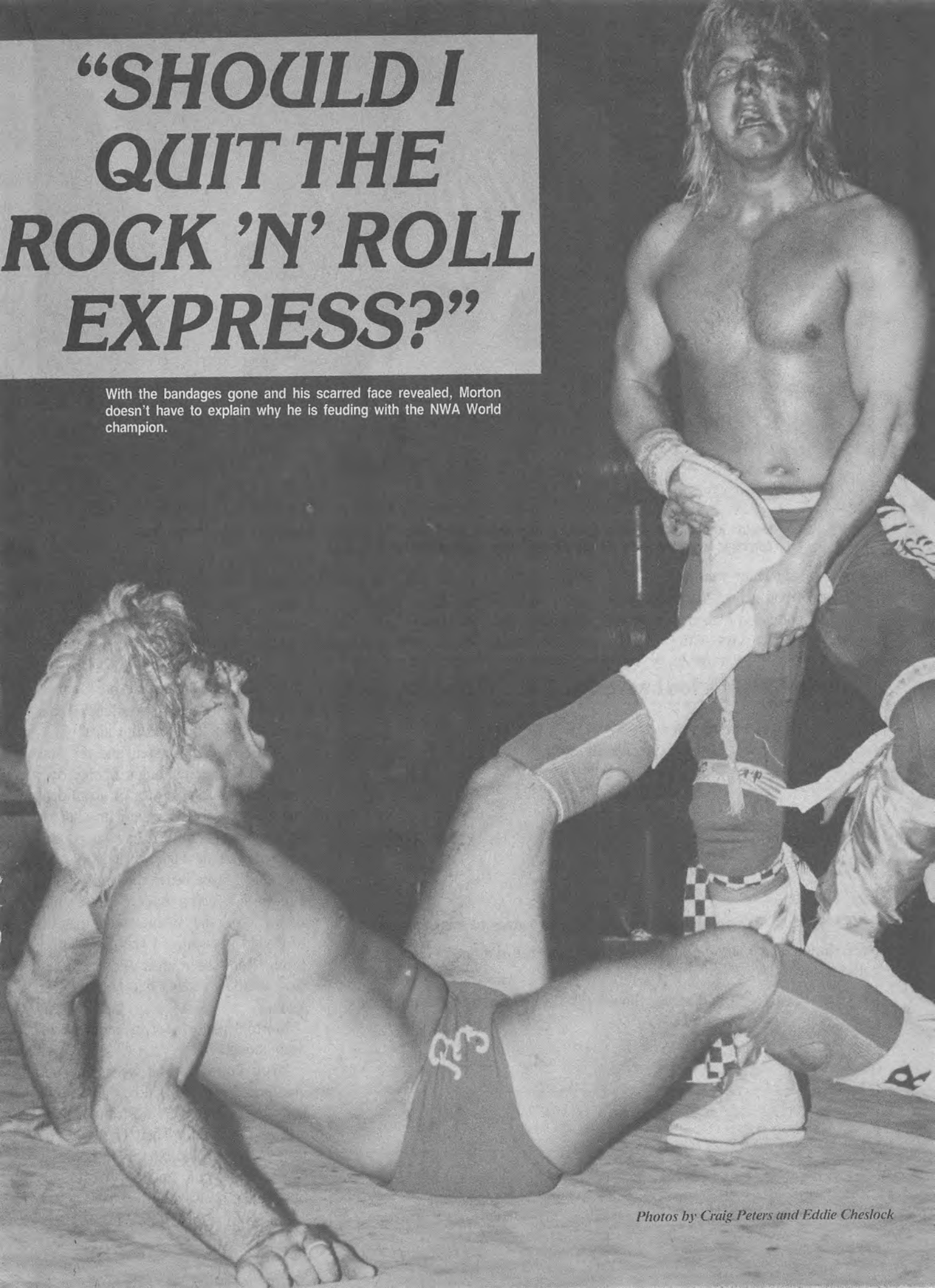
Indeed, as Morton says in an in-depth interview in the Fall 1986 edition of our sister publication *Wrestling 86*, "Look, the belt isn't the main reason I'm after Flair, but I'll tell you this: I've given Flair some nervous moments, I've come damn close to getting that three-count, and I've seen fear in Flair's eyes because of it. That makes me very, very happy. But it's not a case where I'll never quit until I get the belt. Hey—I'm getting my shots at Flair now, and I'm going to give each match all I've got. But my match strategy isn't based on maneuvering Flair in for a pinfall, it's more to the point of trying to give Flair a taste of his own bad medicine. I mean, if I come out of all this without the title, I'm not gonna be emotionally destroyed."

But if the Morton-Flair matches have proven anything, they've proven that Morton is as fine a singles wrestler

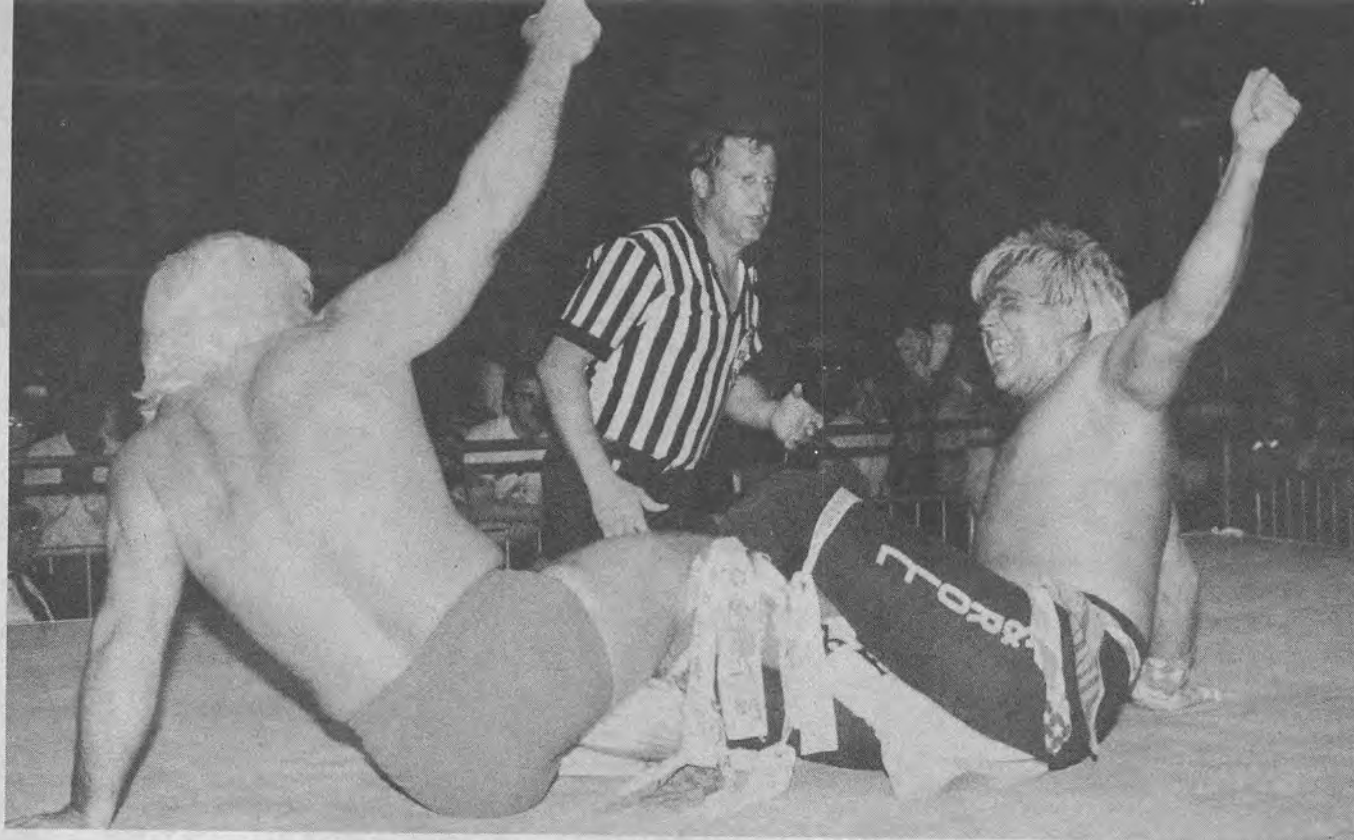
In his series of matches with Ric Flair, Rick Morton has been wrestling beyond anyone's wildest expectations. Now the question is thrown open to the fans—should Morton quit The Rock 'n' Roll Express and go after the NWA World title full-time?

"SHOULD I QUIT THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS?"

With the bandages gone and his scarred face revealed, Morton doesn't have to explain why he is feuding with the NWA World champion.



Photos by Craig Peters and Eddie Cheslock



Morton is about to surprise Flair by successfully reversing his figure-four leglock. Frankly, Morton has surprised everyone with his superb showings against the NWA champ.

as he is a tag team wrestler.

"I wish I had a buck for every two-count I've gotten on Flair over the past month," Morton says with a laugh.

"You know, I've actually surprised myself in a few of those matches. I suspected that I'd give Flair some rough moments, but I never expected

to press him to a one-hour draw like I did in Atlanta. That was an amazing match."

Many fans agree, and some observers have even gone so far as to say that Morton should devote himself full-time to singles wrestling. What does Morton think of the idea?

"I'd be kidding myself and my fans if I said I'd never thought of that over these last weeks," Morton confided. "Heck, I mean if I gave it my all for six months, I think I'd have as good a shot of winning Flair's belt as anyone else, and maybe better than most. But, I mean, it's such a massive career shift, though, isn't it? What would that do to Robert [Gibson] if I split like that? I mean, Rob's been great about my singles wrestling lately, but I just don't know."

Morton paused for a moment of deep thought.

"You know, maybe we could split our time down the middle and wrestle half singles and half tag team matches," he suggested. "Then The Rock 'n' Roll Express would be able to hold the NWA World title and the World tag title simultaneously!"

(Continued on page 62)

Should Rick Morton Leave The Rock 'n' Roll Express?

Mail ballot to: **MORTON BALLOT**

c/o *The Wrestler*

Box 48

Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Results will be printed in the November 1986 edition of *The Wrestler*, on sale September 9

- () Yes, Rick Morton should devote his entire career to wrestling solo
- () Morton and Gibson should split their time between singles and tag team matches
- () The Rock 'n' Roll Express should wrestle exclusively tag team matches

NAME _____

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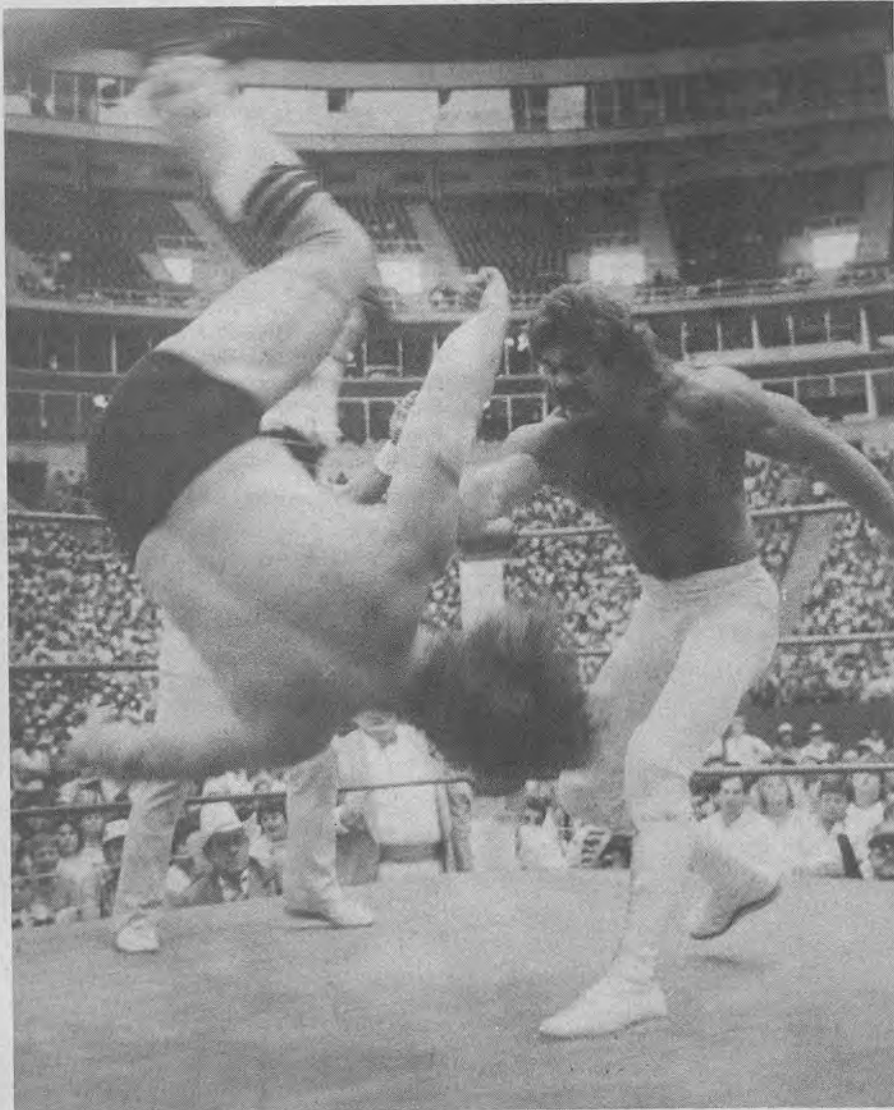
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS _____

Bruiser Brody vs. Rick Rude:

THE WORLD CLASS TITLE BECOMES A WORLD CLASS TITLE

Photos by Buddy Myers



Rick Rude shows his tremendous arm strength as he flings Bruiser Brody to the mat during his Texas Stadium defense of the World Class heavyweight championship.

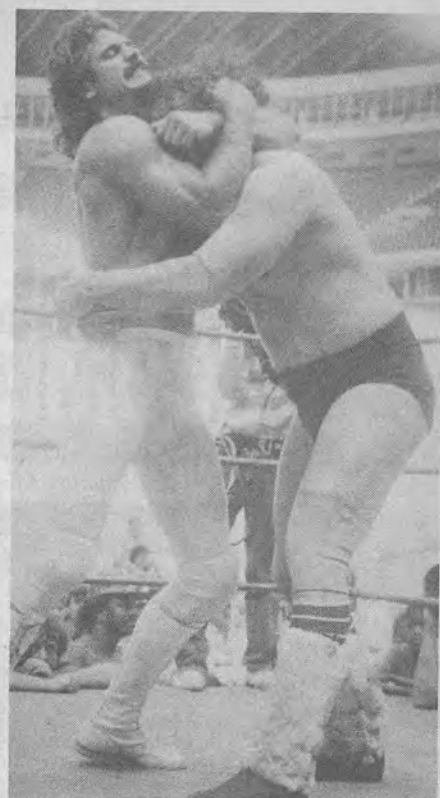
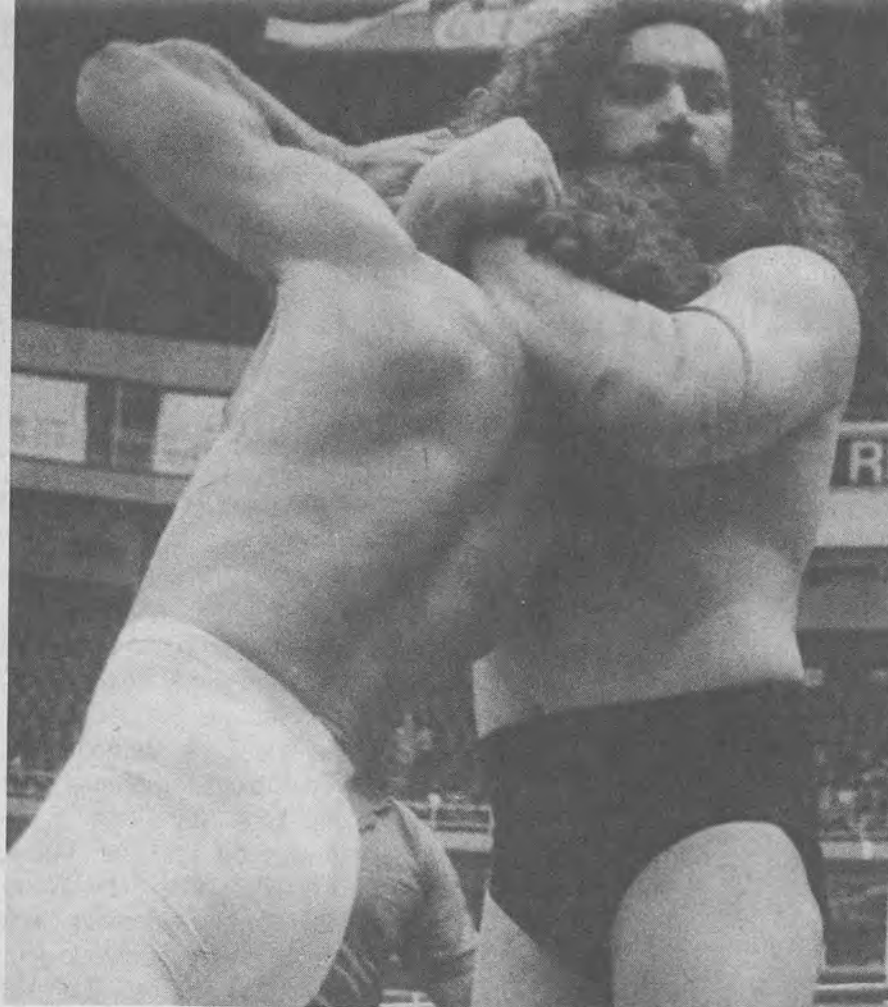
IT WASN'T Ric Flair vs. Kerry or Kevin Von Erich. Matches like those are a thing of the past. The location was the same: Texas Stadium. The event was the same, too: The David Von Erich Memorial Parade Of Champions, an annual holiday in the Lone Star State.

A title was on the line, but it wasn't the NWA title. The World Class had recently separated from the NWA, but secession doesn't necessarily mean success. Call it a breaking away party, the World Class' first major show of independence from the older and larger alliance. No Flair, no Dusty, no Garvins, no Russians, but a pretty solid cast of characters.

And the main event which, more than anything, was the World Class' way of saying "We're free!" The controversial disqualification rule had been trashed. Ric Flair could go on getting disqualified to save his NWA title. World Class officials would hear nothing of it. Rick Rude couldn't win for losing and this, in reality, was his biggest obstacle.

Not to mention Bruiser Brody. The 284-pound brawler from Albuquerque, New Mexico, was selected by a vote of the fans to oppose Rude in the Texas Stadium extravaganza.

When Ravishing Rick Rude defended the World Class belt against Bruiser Brody at Texas Stadium, World Class officials knew that the world was watching and how important it was that the match meet world title standards. They were not disappointed—and neither were 24,000 fans



Brody applies a headlock and contemplates his next move (left). Rick holds on for dear life because he knows that once he lets go, Brody's going to be angry (above). Percy Pringle gasps as he sees his man in trouble (below).

ganza, setting up what promised to be a vicious battle between two powerful brawlers. Nobody was disappointed, especially World Class officials.

"We've taken a lot of heat for breaking away from the NWA," said one Texas promoter. "The NWA gets a lot of respect around the country, and I'm not saying they shouldn't, but their rules are outdated. The time had come for a change. I admit, we were taking a chance, but I think we've won our first battle."

The jury is still out on the World Class, however. The Von Erich Day crowd of just over 24,000 was far below the 43,000-plus that attended the inaugural event in 1984. In addition, the World Class has come under attack for the quality of the big card: three wrestlers appeared twice and Missy Hyatt met Sunshine in an embarrassing mud match.

But the main event was certainly a class act. World Class. Three



times, Brody came within a fraction of a second of pinning the champion. Twice, the action spilled outside the ring. Finally, Brody was disqualified for tossing Rude over the top rope and a wild scene erupted on the runway to the lockerroom.

"Basically, I think I proved that I'm fully capable of defending my title without the help of the disqualification rule," boasted Rude. "He had three chances to pin me and couldn't. Isn't it amazing that he turned out getting disqualified, not me? I think that speaks for itself."

Perhaps, but very little spoke for itself in this all-out war. Minutes after the opening bell, Brody was pinned against the turnbuckle, kicked out, bodyslammed Rude and almost scored an early victory, but referee Rick Hazzard's right hand fell just short of the three count. Rude tried to take control of the match, but Brody had the momentum. The champ put a head-

lock on Brody and threw him into the ropes, but Bruiser, with a line-man's block, sent Rude hurtling into the turnbuckle and outside the ring. The two wrestlers brawled wildly on the apron and Rude smashed Brody's head into the ringpost, injuring the challenger.

Brody bounced back and showed why he was the fans' choice. Rude delivered a forearm smash, but Brody came back with an eyegouge and an acrobatic flying dropkick. Then, in the most impressive move

in reality, Rude could have been disqualified. Moments later, Rude took control with a reverse suplex, but Pringle's interference got the best of a frustrated Brody. The challenger went after Pringle and flipped him into the ring. Rude came to the aid of his manager, but Brody tossed the champ over the top rope. Hazzard called for the bell and Brody was disqualified.

Brody wasn't finished, however. While Rude and Pringle walked back to the dressing room, Brody



Brody takes the World Class champion over and down with a suplex (left). Brody slams Rude down onto the floor outside the ring (above). Rude would have to hustle to get back into the ring before being counted out and losing his title.

of the night, Brody put Rude in a suplex, flipped him over, and drove him hard into the mat. Brody again picked up Rude in a suplex and smashed him to the mat before delivering a flying legdrop across Rude's neck.

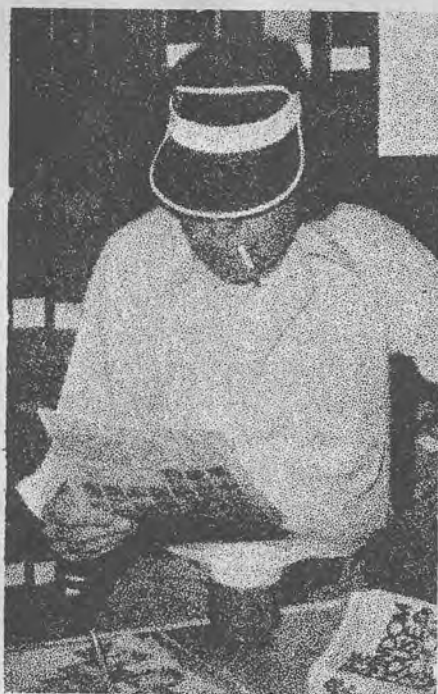
Late in the match, Rude covered Brody for the pin, but the referee didn't notice that Brody's leg was draped over the bottom rope. Percy Pringle then lifted Brody's leg off the rope, which should have resulted in the disqualification of Rude. But once again, the referee was oblivious to what had occurred. So,

attacked them from behind. A wild scene erupted as about 20 other wrestlers came in to try to break them up. Eventually, order was restored, and Brody walked off to the cheers of the ecstatic crowd.

"The fans know who should have won," said an angry Brody. "Pringle picked my leg off the bottom rope and Rude should have been disqualified. Pringle is not out of the woods, and neither is Rude. Those guys will get what's coming to them."

Brody, apparently, was the only person who went home unhappy. □

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

OCTOBER 1983 HARLEY RACE vs. HULK HOGAN

LET'S FACE IT, anyone who knows St. Louis wrestling understands this fact: That town belongs to Harley Race. Or at least it used to. Over the past few years, even the seven-time NWA champion himself hasn't been able to pack a full house into the Kiel Auditorium.

Ah, but it wasn't that long ago, not long indeed, that a fellow by the name of Hulk Hogan came to the Kiel to challenge Harley Race's claim to St. Louis supremacy, in addition to a title of some magnitude—the NWA World heavyweight championship.

Now remember, this was before Hogan vs. The Iron Sheik, before Hulkamania, before WrestleManias 1 and 2, before the rock 'n' wrestling connection.

This was a time when Hulk Hogan was simply awesome. When the microscopic spotlight of international fame hadn't exposed his inadequacies and inconsistencies to a star-hungry world. When the fans didn't care that all Hogan could do was a bearhug and a legdrop and



Hulk Hogan backdrops Harley Race outside the ring. Fortunately for the NWA champion, the floor is padded.

an elbowsmash, and when a professional reputation didn't ride on every moment of every match.

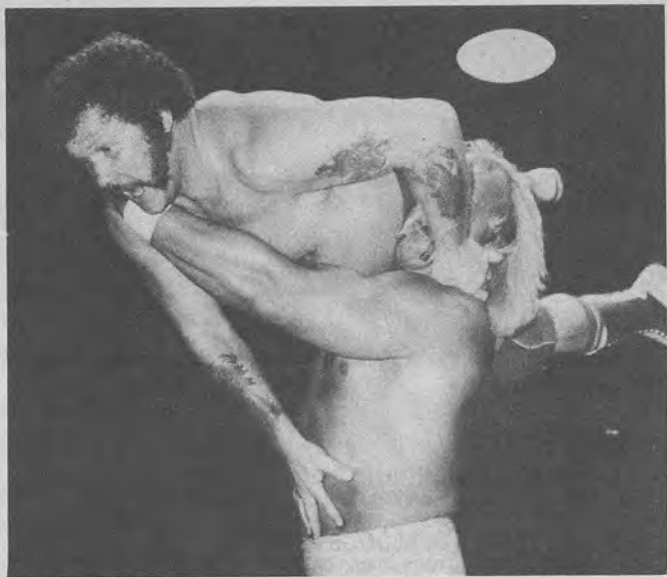
This was the time of Hulk Hogan: mercenary. And he was out for blood against one man: Harley Race. And he had the gall to try and embarrass Race in his own backyard.

An account of the match, printed in the March 1984 issue of this magazine, quotes Hogan as saying that he "finished Harley Race. From now on, Race can wrestle only on luck and reputation. Race just collapsed. He couldn't take the pounding I was giving him. Suddenly, his body turned to spaghetti, his movements were sluggish, and there was nothing he could do about it. I felt a man's career end in my hands."

Quite a long way from "Let me tell you, Mean Gene . . ."

Well, the fact of the matter is that Hogan *didn't* finish Race, not by a longshot. You can believe me; I was there. But what Hogan *did* do was demonstrate a significant level of control over Race. Make no mistake about it, Hogan dominated the match from start to finish, and Race could only muster up a few piddly offenses of his own, the most significant being one patented Race knee to Hogan's head, and even then he was unable to send the blond giant against the ropes in a clear match advantage.

No, this was Hulkamania, 10



Hogan lifts Race and tosses him across the ring as if he were a lightweight (above). In a rare offensive maneuver, Race connects with a kneedrive (below).



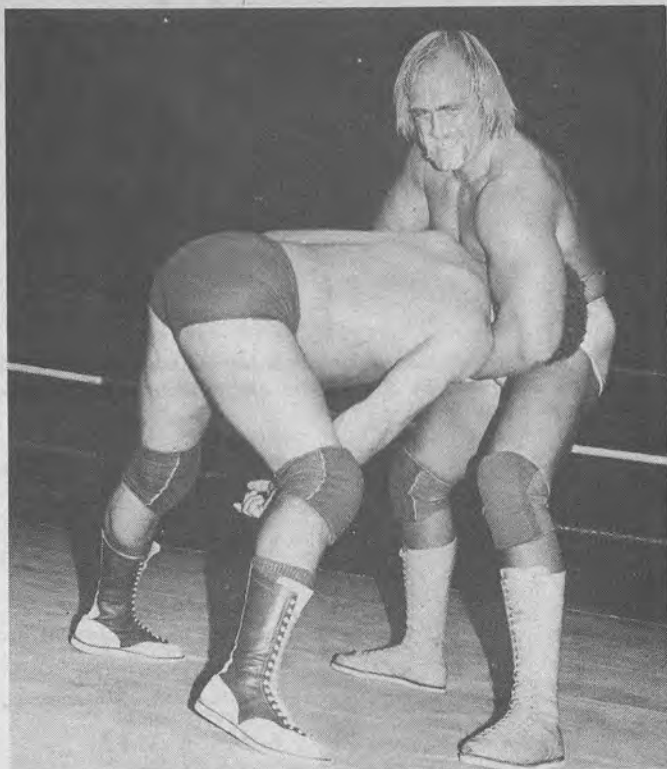
months too early. Even then in St. Louis I could see that Hogan was gearing up to be something special. Little did I know where that road would lead him. Stupid me—I thought Hogan would capture the AWA World heavyweight belt.

And when I joined the rest of the fans in the Kiel and filed out into the parking lot, I thought about the match I had just witnessed. I saw Harley Race as a spent legend. I saw Hulk Hogan as a future AWA

champion.

And I never conceived that I could have been looking at the situation I'm looking at today: Hulk Hogan is the WWF champion, and Harley Race has entered the WWF full-time. And you know something? Race looks every bit the spent legend that Hogan claimed he was after their match in St. Louis three years back.

The reasons for Race going to the WWF are his own, and I'm go-



Hogan snares the NWA champion in a front facelock (above). Race tries to roll out of his challenger's path, but the Hulkster's elbow will send him back to the mat with a thud (below).



ing to comment on them at length in my "Plain Speaking" column in this month's *Inside Wrestling*, but the question on my mind today is: Is the WWF really going to give Harley Race a shot at Hulk Hogan's title? Because if they are, we might see a replay of this 1983 domination of Hulk over Race. Only this time, Hulk is three years and a few million fans stronger, and Race is three years weaker. Much weaker.

It would be an ugly match. □

OFFICIAL WRESTLING

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Lex Luger

TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**
AWA World champion
322, Borger, TX
- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**MAGNUM T.A.**
U.S. champion
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 1 contender: National title
302, Austin, TX
- 7—**BRUISER BRODY**
No. 1 contender: World Class title
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 8—**RICK RUDE**
World Class champion
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 9—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
National champion
235, San Antonio, TX
- 10—**LEX LUGAR**
Southern champion
280, Chicago, IL

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 3—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 4—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 5—**THE FANTASTICS**
UWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 6—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHARDT**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 7—**THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS**
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
Combined weight: 791 pounds
- 8—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 9—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 511 pounds
- 10—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
No. 2 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:

- RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
 - 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
 - 3—**RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
 - 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
 - 5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
 - 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
 - 7—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
 - 8—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
 - 9—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
 - 10—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL

AWA

World Champion:

- STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
- 1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
 - 2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
 - 3—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
 - 4—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
 - 5—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
 - 6—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT
 - 7—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
 - 8—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands
 - 9—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
 - 10—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa

WWF

World Champion:

- HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
 - 2—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
 - 3—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
 - 4—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
 - 5—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
 - 6—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
 - 7—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
 - 8—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY
 - 9—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
 - 10—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**SHASKA WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
- 9—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 10—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX

SPECIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 3—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 4—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 5—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 6—**STEVE SIMPSON**
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 7—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Dallas, TX
- 8—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 9—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 10—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan

UWF

- 1—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 2—**KORTSIA KORCHENKO**
286, Russia
- 3—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 5—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 7—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chatanooga, TN
- 8—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Tulsa, OK
- 9—**RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 10—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL

FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 2—**THE WHITE NINJA**
231, Japan
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—**KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
- 5—**RON BASS**
265, Pampa, TX
- 6—**BOB ROOP**
273, Tampa, FL
- 7—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**THE CUBAN ASSASSIN**
236, Cuba
- 9—**TYREE PRIDE**
231, Haiti
- 10—**JERRY GREY**
241, Tampa, FL

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 2—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 4—**DUTCH MANTEL**
242, Bucksnorth, TN
- 5—**JOS LeDUC**
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 6—**BILLY TRAVIS**
225, Lexington, KY
- 7—**PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 8—**RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA
- 9—**ABDUL KHADAFY**
265, Libya
- 10—**HILLBILLY ELMER**
406, Philadelphia, MS

CONTINENTAL

- 1—**WENDELL COOLEY**
238, Memphis, TN
- 2—**JERRY STUBBS**
235, Pensacola, FL
- 3—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
- 4—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 5—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 6—**MR. WRESTLING II**
247, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**TOMMY RICH**
232, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 10—**TIM HORNER**
235, Morristown, TN

NORTHWEST

- 1—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
- 2—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
- 3—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
- 4—**BRADY BOONE**
236, Charlotte, NC
- 5—**SCOTT DORING**
255, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**MOONDOG MORETTI**
245, Boise, ID
- 7—**NICK KINISKI**
241, Vancouver, BC
- 8—**COCOA SAMOA**
239, Samoa
- 9—**STONY BURKE**
235, Greensboro, NC
- 10—**SHEIK ABUGHDADIEN**
242, parts unknown

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 9—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 10—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN

MOST HATED

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
- 4—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 8—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY
- 9—**SHASKA WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 10—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

For period ended May 29, 1986

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The reader mailbag: It's time once again to sift through the mail we've received over the past months and address some of your comments.



Ronnie Garvin & Magnum T.A.

● *From Craig Liggeons, Philadelphia:* "I have a question regarding the importance of the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament. If Magnum T.A. and Ron Garvin had defeated The Road Warriors in the final round, would they indeed be ranked as the number one tag team in the world (or even crack the Top 10) despite the fact that they are not a steady team?"

[Had the Warriors been upset in that final round, it is likely that T.A. and Garvin would have received a Top 10 tag team ranking,

at least for that month. As it says above the Top 10 and Tag Team ratings, "Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler." A victory in the Crockett Cup tournament over the number one team in the sport not only would have given T.A. and Garvin a Top 10 ranking, but probably would have knocked the Warriors out of the number one spot as well. As we noted in last month's "Ratings Analysis," the editors have been poised to bump Hawk and Animal down a notch or two. But the Warriors' win in New Orleans, coupled with their recent six-man title victory with Dusty Rhodes over Ivan and Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke in Baltimore, have cemented their hold on number one—for now. But the Tag Team ratings are based on U.S. competition for the past month. Hawk and Animal are soon headed to Japan for several weeks, and their inactivity in the States may serve to nudge them from the number one spot. We'll see.]

● *From Mark Stroming, Verona, New Jersey:* "I love reading the 'Official Wrestling Ratings' and 'Ratings Analysis' in your magazine, but there are a few changes I feel should be made in the ratings: Here goes:

"First, get rid of the Southeast Continental ratings. This area never receives any coverage and does not deserve any. An area deserving of ratings and more coverage in the magazines would be the Polynesian Pro area.

"In response to the question asked concerning the placement of a wrestler in the number one contender's slot because he holds the region's second-largest championship, I have to respond with a 'No.' The number one contender should be someone who defeats the main competition in the area and is wrestling, or will soon be wrestling, the world champion in that particular area.

"Finally, I do not feel Ric Flair should always be ranked the number one wrestler in the Top 10. Hulk Hogan has been through some tough months lately, and his championship is still intact. He has turned back the challenges of Randy Savage, Terry Funk, Magnifi-

cent Muraco, and King Kong Bundy. He wrestled Bundy at WrestleMania 2 with damaged ribs, I might add. By the way, why isn't Bundy in the WWF's top 10 contenders? What gives?"

[You make plenty of valid comments, Mark, and we'll address them one by one. First of all, we get a lot of mail about adding or subtracting a ratings category. Some fans want to see Polynesian added, others want to see Central States added, and still others want to see ICW or NWF or WWC or Japan ratings. Fans have suggested dropping categories such as Northwest, Continental, Florida, and Mid-Southern. Short of adding a third page to our ratings, we intend to keep the categories as they currently are, and cover the other areas occasionally with ratings in this column.

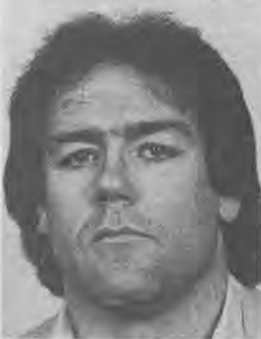
[As far as the top champions in an area being rated behind a world champion, the mail has been overwhelmingly in favor of this practice. The WWF top 10 are the top 10 wrestlers in that area, not necessarily the top 10 contenders to Hulk Hogan's title. For Intercontinental champion Randy Savage not to be rated directly behind Hogan doesn't seem right; he certainly should not be rated third or fifth. The same goes for the U.S. champion in the NWA, and the Americas champion in the AWA.

[Regarding the positioning of Flair in our own Top 10: Yes, Hulk has done very well lately, and that's why he's been nudged from three to two in the Top 10. But Flair also has done well, better than Hogan in our opinion, and remains number one for reasons often stated in this space.

[Finally, your comment about Bundy in the WWF ratings brings to mind once again the "For period ending" notation on the ratings. Pay attention to that notation. It sets a cutoff date for the ratings that should be considered when examining the categories. Last month, three weeks after WrestleMania 2, Bundy was ranked number five in the WWF; the issue before that, a week before WrestleMania 2, Bundy was rated number two.]

● *From James C. Everest, Oklahoma City:* "You made a mistake on your ratings. You put that Tully Blanchard was 275 pounds and from Moscow, Russia."

[Yes, we did make a mistake, and it appeared in several of our sister publications. Which is not to say that we thought Tully was from the same town as Nikita Koloff! A typesetting error with our computer system was the cause of that mistake, and unfortunately, with the number of names in our ratings, these kinds of things will crop up from time to time. Sorry 'bout that!]



Tully Blanchard

The address for mail: Did we rate Ric Flair in the WWF? Is Stan Hansen now from Leningrad? Is Tito Zbyszko ranked in the AWA? Even if there aren't any errors to point out, we still want to hear your opinions about our ratings. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o The Wrestler, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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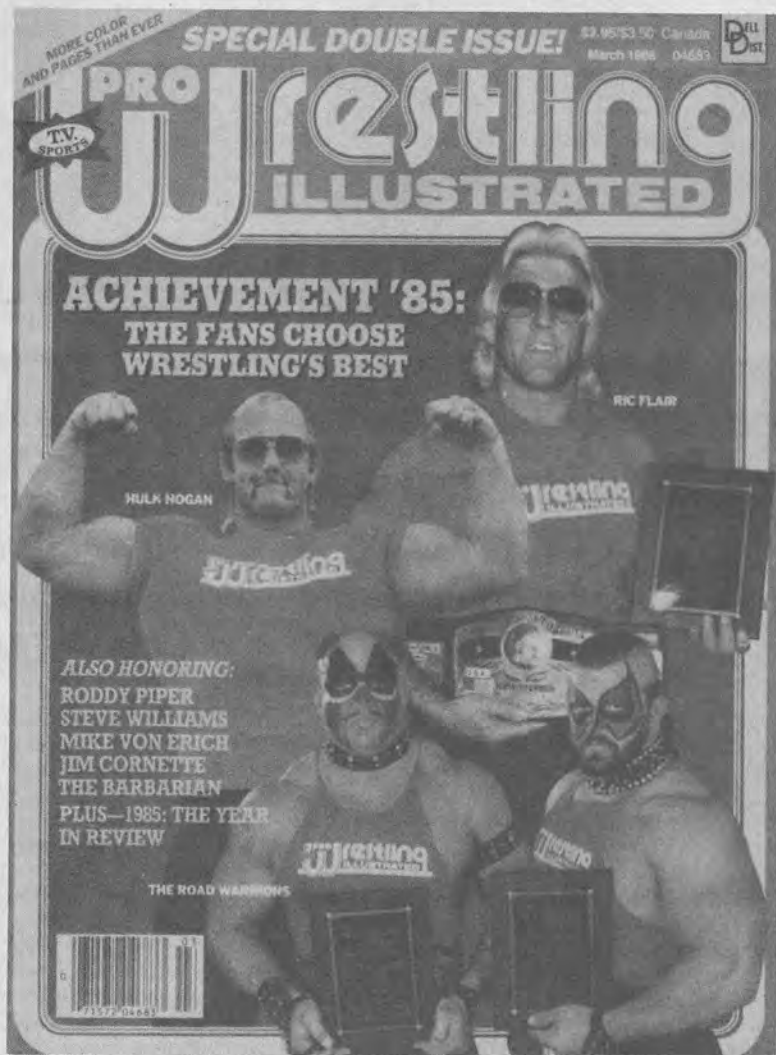
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The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

Now, come on. It was a no-disqualification match and everybody knew it. Do you mean to tell me that they did not know it? Howard Finkel announced it before the match.

Now, I'm wondering if Monsoon and Hays are really that stupid, or does Vinnie (McMahon) pay them to act that way?

DAWN & MICHELLE PARKER
Tomkins Cove, NY

A WRESTLER'S LIFE

I think that wrestling fans don't really understand the pain and endurance a wrestler has to go through.



In addition to wrestling a full schedule of matches, Kerry Von Erich works out three hours a day. Reader Tina Rae understands how difficult the life of a wrestler really is.

First of all, every morning they wake up to the same old routine: getting up and having to go to the gym to work out for about three hours or more (and believe me, I know what it means when they workout, because I train the same as they do).

Then they might travel hours to wrestle. And finally, they have to endure the pain and new injuries that have been inflicted upon them during the match. Don't you think you would give up after going through the same routine day in and day out? Well, you might, but a true wrestler won't. They're a Timex. "Takes a beating and keeps on ticking."

So you see, a wrestler has to be more than a human to withstand what he has to go through. All of this so that the fans will cheer for him. Well, hats off to you wrestlers. I understand and I'm proud of you.

TINA RAE
Howe, OK

RULER OF WRESTLING?

It's good to see that your magazines are giving Nikita Koloff the respect he deserves. After reading the July 1986 edition of *The Wrestler* ("Nikita Koloff Overpowers Superstar Graham: Can Anyone Stop This Awesome Russian?"), my only possible answer is, no, Nikita Koloff cannot be stopped.

Your description of his match with Graham left me speechless. Very simply, Nikita Koloff has no fears and is capable of defeating, and possibly crippling, any wrestler in the sport. If I were Hulk Hogan, I'd be thankful that Nikita is not wrestling in the WWF and would do everything in my power to keep him away.

Recently, I heard a television commentator say that in three or four years, Nikita Koloff would be heralded as the greatest wrestler in the world, but in my opinion he already is. The way he combines his enormous strength and fierce determination with great wrestling skills is absolutely awesome. No wonder Nikita and Ivan look down upon the American wrestlers.

(Continued on page 49)

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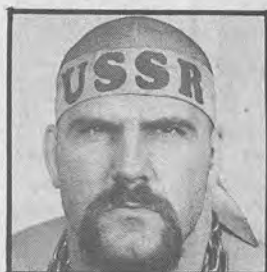
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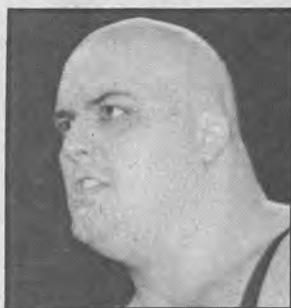
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



It's an unhappy birthday for America as **NIKITA KOLOFF** takes aim at **MAGNUM T.A., THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS, THE ROAD WARRIORS,** and **DUSTY RHODES**



A *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* exclusive! **RANDY SAVAGE vs. KING KONG BUNDY**—It happened before; will it happen again?

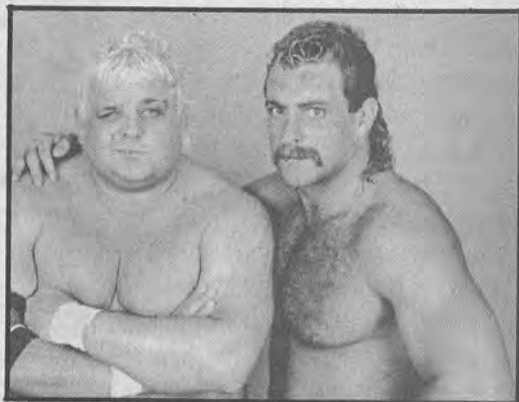
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Inside Wrestling



DUSTY RHODES teams up with **MAGNUM T.A.**—but America's team isn't out for glory, it's out for revenge!



ANDRE THE GIANT'S career is at the crossroads, and it may not be long before **HULK HOGAN** feels his rage

PLUS . . .

CHRIS ADAMS' shortsighted comeback may ruin his life . . . Learn why losing the AWA tag team title was the best thing for **SCOTT HALL . . . BARRY WINDHAM** is interviewed on "The Hotseat" . . . **DARK JOURNEY** and **LADY MAXINE** go at it "One on One"

All this and much more . . .
in the September 1986 issue of
Inside Wrestling
ON SALE NOW!

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 47)

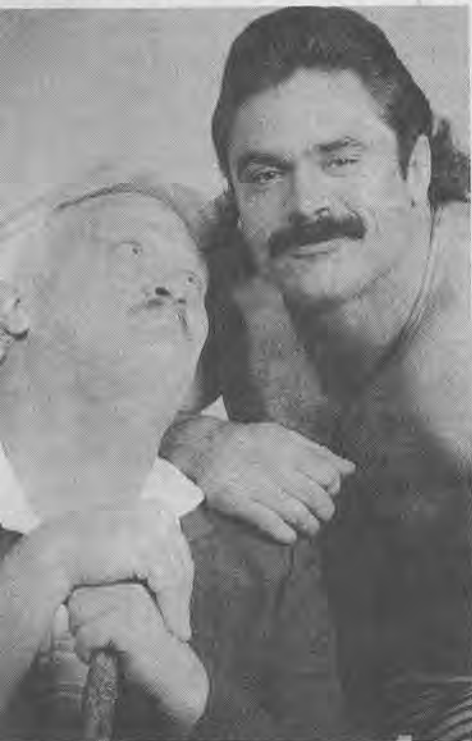
Our training methods must be vastly inferior, because it's obvious that we cannot match this great Soviet champion. It's only a matter of time before Nikita Koloff defeats every top wrestler in this country and then, much to our disdain, the Russians will rule the ring.

STU BABUS
Lynchburg, VA

RUDE, DQs, and GINO

I'd like to express my opinion about a number of matters concerning World Class wrestling.

Rick Rude would be far better off and have a lot more fans if he didn't



Percy Pringle looks affectionately at World Class champion Rick Rude. Rude, writes Doris L. Wood, would be better off without Pringle.

have a jackass (the nicest word that describes him) like Percy Pringle for a manager. Rude has a lot of muscle, but little brains as far as his choice of a manager goes.

It's great that an end was put to the disqualification rule. It really was ruining the sport. Now it will be a lot
(Continued on page 50)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)

more interesting and people who pay to see the matches in person will finally get their money's worth.

Finally, it's sad that Gino Hernandez died. But if he had not died, I feel that at the very least, he should have been banned from wrestling. What he did to Chris Adams was, pure and simple, the act of an immature amateur.

A lot of people are against wrestling, mainly because they feel it's too violent and dirty. As physically punishing as the sport is, with truly great pros like the Von Erichs, the sport can still be great entertainment.

What Gino did to Chris was low and dirty. Wrestling would have more fans if there weren't so many cowards who have to depend on dirty tactics, such as using illegal substances and weapons, to win their matches. Such cowards shouldn't even be allowed to wrestle. As long as they are, they'll continue giving the sport a bad name.

DORIS L. WOOD
Tucson, AZ

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST!

Six-man champs? Paul Ellering and The Road Warriors have been saying for quite a while that they would like to find just the right partner to take the NWA six-man trophy



Konga The Barbarian hoists Rick Morton into the air. Bill E. Harder feels The Barbarian would have made an excellent partner for The Road Warriors.

from the Russians. Well, undoubtedly, they have not been looking too hard. The perfect partner for Animal and Hawk wrestles in the same area as themselves.

I'm speaking about Konga The Barbarian, not just because he, too, wears war paint, but I know that he is by far the only athlete that would come close to matching the Warriors' prowess in the ring. And I know that Precious Paul can afford to pay Konga more than Paul Jones can ever think of.

So, as far as I'm concerned, the "new" Legion of Doom will take the six-man title. And yes, I said it.

BILL E. HARDER
Washington, IN

[Editor's Note: Close, Bill E. Harder, but not quite. The Road Warriors did find the perfect man to team with, and Hawk, Animal, and **Dusty Rhodes** won the six-man title from Ivan and Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke on May 17 in Baltimore.]

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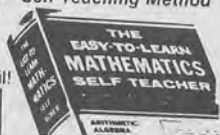
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

Q: "My question is for Jim Cornette: Why don't you ever let The Midnight Express talk? Paul Ellering lets The Road Warriors talk. If you ask me, I think you're too afraid to let them talk."—John Eric Turner, Spartanburg, SC

A: "It's very simple, so simple that even you should be able to understand it, John Eric Turner," Cornette responded. "By the way, what kind of name is John Eric Turner? Sounds like you come from a family of slaves and ditch-diggers. As for your question, pea brain, Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby do the wrestling and I do everything else. I manage their affairs, I sign their contracts, I set up their training schedule, and I do all the talking. Why would I be afraid to let them talk? They're perfectly capable of answering questions, but it would take away from their concentration. Anyway, why do you care? I have the best tag team in the world, and if something works, you stay with it. That's what mother always said."

Q: "Kevin Sullivan, I have two really good questions: If you're a wrestler, why do you bring your religious matter into the ring? If Satan drew you to the UWF area as a bounty hunter, would you follow his request?"—Tina Patterson, Weatherford, OK

A: "The holy ruler Astaroth from the kingdom of 30 fangs has spoken through me," Sullivan said. "Mighty Astaroth has vowed that Oklahoma will be victimized by a thousand days of raining toads and deep, dark nights for the questions you ask. The Idol-worshipping Indians and the God-fearing slime of the innercontinent may bring their symbols into the ring. So must I, says Astaroth, to show my faith in the teachings of the almighty Satan. I must take these wherever he leads me, through the forest of Forras



Kevin Sullivan and Fallen Angel will no longer be seen on Florida beaches. "The Prince of Darkness" is on a world tour.

and the trails of our King Bael. The castellan's soul will be the devil's reward."

Q: "My question is for Steve Simpson: What did you think of World Class' decision to give the six-man tag team title to Kevin Von Erich instead of you after you substituted for Kevin to take the title from The Freebirds? I thought this was unfair and I was wondering if you did, too."—Michael McGowan, Dallas, TX

A: Simpson responded cautiously: "The less said about this the better, but I'm willing to stand by any decision the World Class people make. They've been very good to me so far and I was honored that the Von Erichs asked me to wrestle in such an important match. I'm sure that one day I'll get my chance to win a title. When that time comes, I'll be ready."

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January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

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March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Piper, Flair vs. Kerry; PLUS: 1984 In Review.

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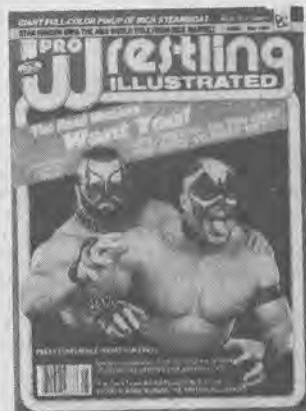
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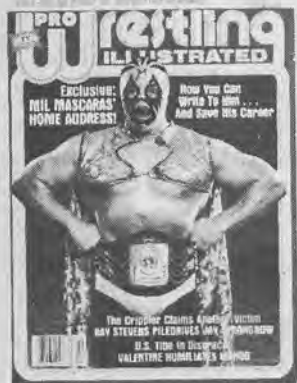
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May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

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APRIL 83



APRIL 84

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CORRESPONDENTS

(Continued from page 10)

Brown beat Nelson Royal ... Don Kernodle beat Leo Burke ... Thunderfoot beat Rocky Kernodle.

Fort Smith, AK (Correspondent—Robbie Rogers): The cream of the UWF crop was welcomed by the fans at Harper Stadium for a seven-match card, highlighted by a 20-man, "come as you are," over-the-top-rope Bunkhouse brawl/battle royal for \$10,000.

Fourteen of the 20 men were thrown over the top rope within the first five minutes as action in the ring was fast and furious. This left The Shepherders, The Fantastics, Jack Victory, and Terry Taylor. The Shepherders threw The Fantastics over the top, leaving Taylor to defend himself. Taylor took a brutal beating before he was able to duck a punch from Jack Victory and throw him out.

Then the Shepherders grabbed Taylor and tried to throw him over the top but Taylor hung on to the ropes and ended up tossing out both Shepherders. He powered himself back into the ring without touching the ground and won the \$10,000.

In other bouts: Brett Sawyer defeated Gustavo Mendoza ... Jack Victory pinned David Peterson ... Buzz Sawyer retained his UWF TV title against Tracey Smothers ... Terry Taylor, Steve Williams, & Koko B. Ware battled to a double-DQ against The Blade Runners & Eddie Gilbert ... The Fantastics retained their UWF tag team titles against The Shepherders.

Manati, Puerto Rico (Correspondent—Christopher Garcia): Invader I and Mighty Igor took on Abdullah The Butcher and Ron Starr in the main event at the Manati Coliseum. Invader I and



An injured Mighty Igor gathers his strength before returning to the titanic tag team war pitting him and Invader I against Abdullah the Butcher and Ron Starr.

Igor were seeking revenge for Carlos Colon, who was blinded one week earlier when Abdullah threw ammonia in his eyes.

The entire match took place outside the ring. Before the bell rang, Abdullah attacked The Invader with a fork while Igor bloodied Starr. Igor then gave The Invader a chair and he used it to draw blood from Abdullah. Invader and Igor double-teamed Starr

while Abdullah ran off to the dressing room, leaving his partner to absorb a severe beating. But Abdullah and Starr won by disqualification when The Invader hit the referee.

In other bouts: Chicky Starr beat The Invader III ... The Super Medic beat Eric Embry by DQ ... Hans Muller and Killer Karl Krupp defeated The Rock 'n Roll RPMs.

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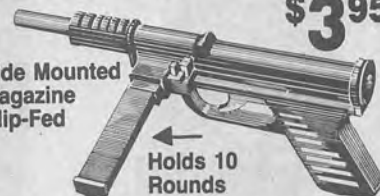
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Victory Sports Wrestling

ADRIAN ADONIS

(Continued from page 33)

Ave. "Look, Matty, why don't we get a six-pack and stand outside Goldberg's Pizza & Video. Maybe they got the fight on there."

"Okay, okay already. Let's go in here. This joint looks painless."

The joint, The Organ Grinder, did look painless. A green and pink canopy hung harmlessly over into the street. An orange sign claimed that *Every Hour Was Happy Hour*, and a smaller poster promised first-run movies and cable-TV.

I had a bad feeling about the place, but before I could say anything, Brock put his arm around me and dragged me in. "C'mon, fella," he growled paternally. "Drinks are on me till the fifth round. If Green can last that long."

We walked through the saloon-style doors together. A guy standing by the cigarette machine looked us up and down then turned to his friend and said, "Those May-December relationships never last. Just you watch."

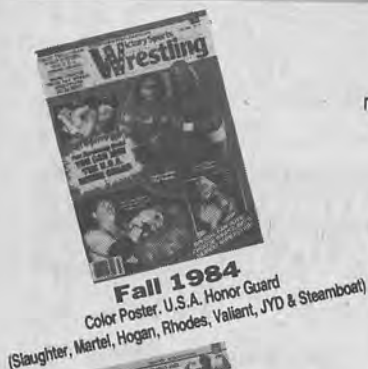
I wanted to get out of there fast, but Matt had already made tracks to the bar. The bartender wore a leather tanktop and spandex pants. He smiled at us. "What'll it be, pardners?"

"A couple of Rheingolds," Brock ordered.

"We only have New Amsterdam on tap," the bartender responded. "Most of our clients loathe beer."

"Whatever. Just set us up a couple of cold ones. And turn the fight on, willya chum?" Brock added. "I wanna hear what Sugar Ray has to say."

"Tonight?" The bartender was incredulous. "Tonight? You want to see boxing tonight? Are you crazy? 'The Flower Shop' is on tonight. This is our biggest night. Watch how this place fills up in 10 minutes."



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Grabbing Hillbilly Jim by the hair, Adonis puts 303 pounds behind an elbowsmash.

He was right. By 10:15, men—the club conspicuously lacked women—crowded around the winding oval bar. Before we knew it, we were elbow to elbow with 120 guys. All exits were blocked. We couldn't leave if we wanted.

"Wonder who he'll have on tonight?"

"I wonder *what* he'll have on tonight!"

"I hope it's Macho Man."

"I hope it's Orndorff."

"You don't see many girls in here, do you?" Matt asked, clearly bewildered.

At the appointed time, with little room to spare, Adorable Adrian Adonis filled the bar's 25-inch screen. He received a big round of applause.

"Hiya, everyone! Welcome to The Flower Shop. Today's special guest is 'Macho Man' Randy Savage!" Adonis preened. The Savage contingent let out a nasal whoop.

The Flower Shop is Adrian Adonis' bizarre answer to Roddy Piper's Pit and Jesse Ventura's Body Shop. They are all talk shows, whose hosts insist on doing most of the talking, although in this case that is where the resemblance ends. Looking like something between a psychedelic hippopotamus and the FTD Man, Adonis prims his way through his show, dispensing petals and perfume in a manner best described as, er, unnatural. He is the WWF

taken to its most extraordinary extreme.

It wasn't always like this.

"I remember when Adonis was the toughest out in wrestling," Matt whispered to me, his head quaking in despair. "When he and Ventura won the AWA tag team title, I wrote a story describing them as the fiercest duo to come along in 25 years."

On the screen Adonis had snatched a flower out of the hands of Miss Elizabeth and presented it to Savage. He courtied. The man to Matt's left screamed. "That's it, Adorable. Put her in her place."

Matt clenched his teeth and continued. "Then when he and Murdoch started teaming in the WWF, I knew it was just a matter of time before they won the title. They handled Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas like they were schoolkids.

"Now look at him. What the hell is going on, anyway? Yuppies. Gays. The world used to be a better place. I may be an old drunk, but this stuff is crazy."

Adonis, who used to ride a motorcycle through New York's Hell's Kitchen, was now pirouetting off-stage, rolls of stomach flesh lolling off him like Pacific Ocean breakers. His manager, Jimmy Hart, chased after him with a bottle of perfume.

The crowd started to break up. The talk seemed to center on the pink and mauve house dress Adonis had showcased that night.

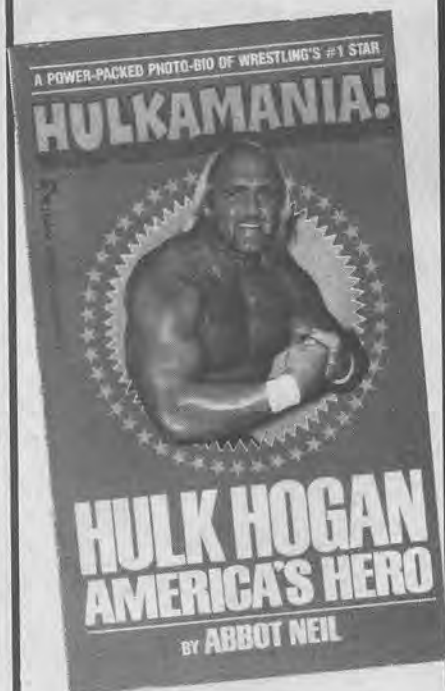
"You boys wanna watch the fight now?" we were asked.

Matt left a fin on the bar and padded out silently. The world had changed and no one had bothered consulting him. I felt sad. The next day I asked my 11-year-old neighbor and resident wrestling nut, Marc Menachem, what he thought of Adrian Adonis.

"I don't like him," Marc said. "He's a faggot."

You can't fool the kids. Matt'll be happy to hear that. □

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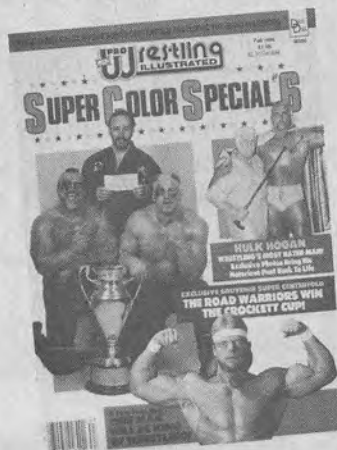
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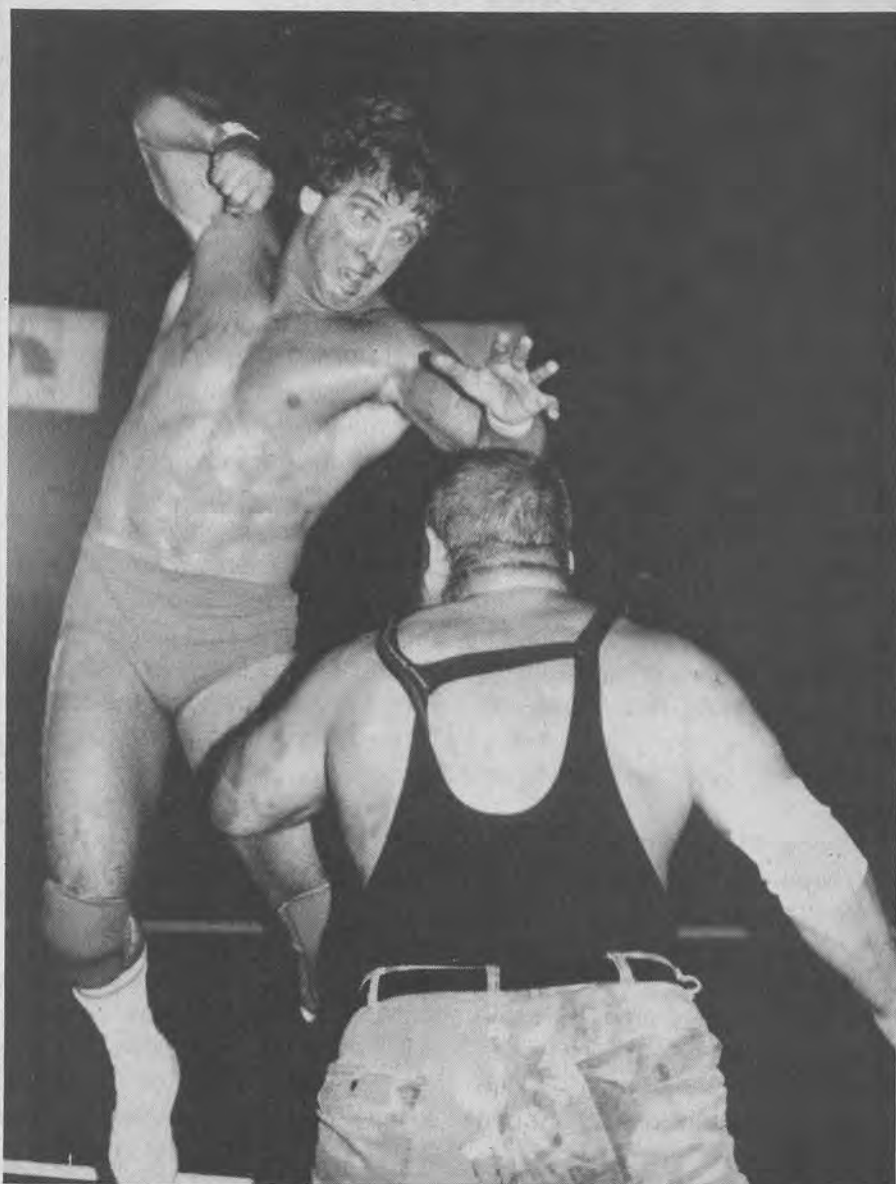
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TAG TEAM SURVIVAL

(Continued from page 31)



Rogers flies off the ropes, aiming a fist at Miller's head. The Fantastics will gladly put aside their feud with The Shepherders when it comes time to wrestle The Freebirds.

brainstorming session, • Fulton was pleased with the work that they had done. And Rogers was no longer silent about The Freebirds' invasion of the UWF.

"Bobby and I have spent a long, long time examining tapes of ourselves, and of The Freebirds. We've singled out several offensive strategies that the 'Birds tend to use in virtually all of their matches, and we've been candid about singling out weaknesses in our own style. We've also done a thorough analysis of our offense compared with their defense."

"That's right," Fulton added, "and over the next few weeks, while Hayes

and Gordy and Roberts party over their contract, and spend some time squashing inferior opponents to soothe their egos, we're going to be applying new strategies in our title defenses against the UWF's top teams. We're not taking the invasion of The Freebirds lying down.

"And you can bet that we've developed some maneuvers that are just going to completely dazzle them," Fulton continued. "The 'Birds just can't handle the aerial attack, and we've beefed up that attack even more lately. The 'Birds want our belts, and we're going to be prepared to defend them. More

(Continued on page 60)

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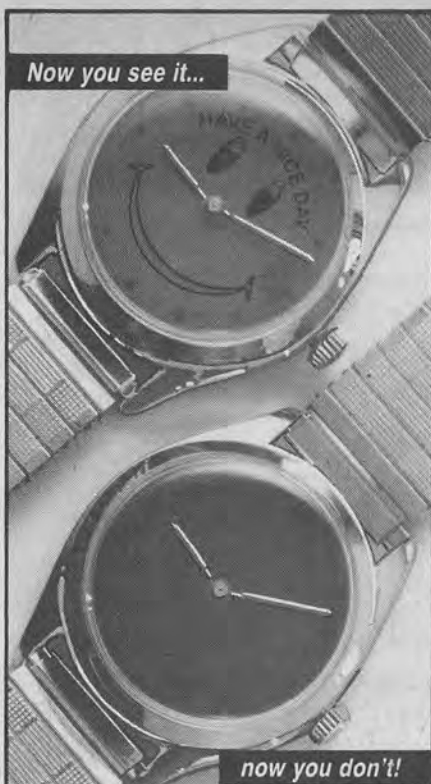
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TAG TEAM SURVIVAL

(Continued from page 58)



prepared than ever before. Because they've got a lot of momentum on their side, and we're going to have to deal with that as well as the 'Birds themselves. There's going to be a heck of a war here, and only one team will survive it all. And we have no intention of falling to the 'Birds, no matter how many three-on-tuos they try and throw at us; we're prepared for those, too!"

Buddy Roberts wanted to check out the Preservation Hall Jazz Band just off Bourbon Street, but Michael Hayes dragged his Freebird compeers into another whiskey bar. After ordering yet another round of triple Jack Daniels straight up, Hayes proposed a toast of sorts.

"Who's the best tag team in the world?"

"WE ARE!"

"Who's getting the top money in the UWF?"

"WE ARE!"

"Who's gonna kick the butts of

Miller and Luke Williams double-team Rogers, smashing his face with the flag's standard bearer. Wrestling The Shepherders should provide good preparation for their matches against The Freebirds. What The Fantastics must be concerned with, though, is the odd man out among Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts.

them skinny-boy punks Rogers and Fulton?"

"WE ARE!"

"And who's gonna be the next UWF tag team champions?"

"WE ARE!"

"Damn right, brothers! Drink up, and let's move on, there's a hell of a lot more bars to go tonight! We're gonna sail through these Bourbon Street bars just like we're gonna sail to those tag team belts!"

Overconfidence. It's ruined many a wrestler's championship ambitions. If The Fantastics have anything to say about it—and they certainly do—The Freebirds' UWF title charge will be obliterated before they can sober up from their Bourbon Street celebration.

It's going to be a hell of a war. □

Wrestling

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April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

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March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

September 1982/Von Erich, Bockwinkel, Mascaras, Hansen, Rhodes.

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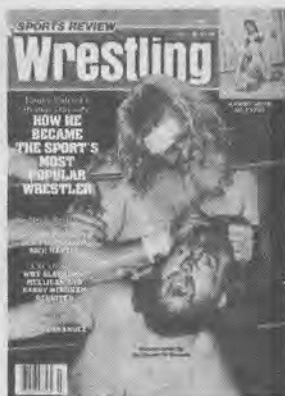
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

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April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Brisco, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.



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July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

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February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

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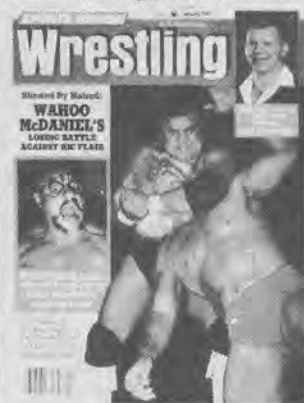
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

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January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta, Steamboat.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

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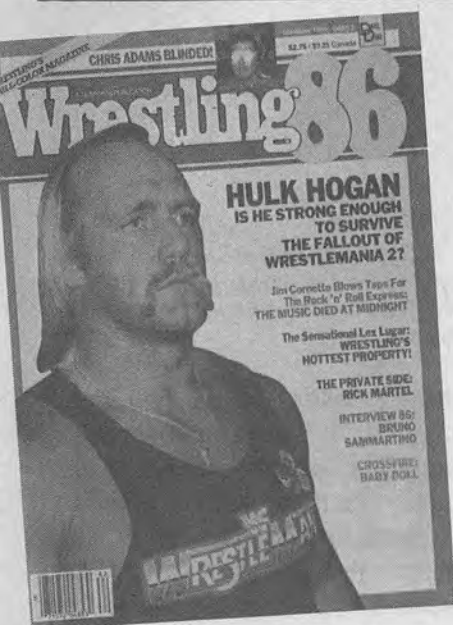
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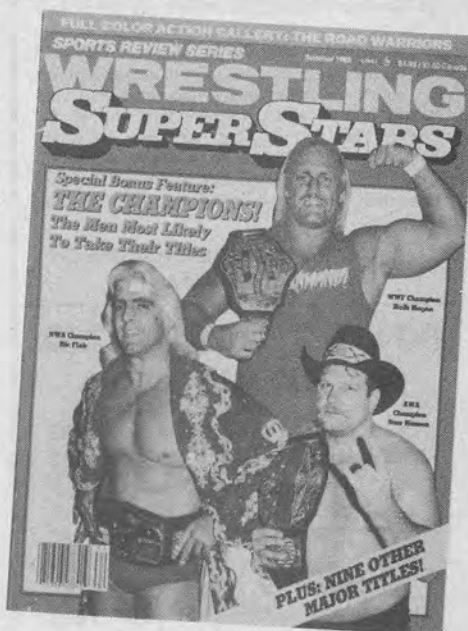
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)



Scott Hall's powerful arms hinder the flow of blood to Playboy Buddy Rose's head. In a decision that has the entire wrestling world puzzled, Rose and Doug Somers won the AWA tag team belts from Hall and Curt Hennig via countout!

belts. Rose and Somers won the belts with the aid of **Col. DeBeers**, who came to the ring during the title match and began hurling insults at Hall, who had Rose in a pin position at the time. Hall left Rose to attack DeBeers, and Rose got up and attacked Hall from behind. When Hall collapsed to the ring apron, Rose dragged him to the floor and rammed his head against the steel ringpost. Hall was counted out, and—in a ruling that has sparked vehement controversy and debate throughout the wrestling community—the belts were allowed to change hands.

On a recent installment of WWF wrestling, **Vince McMahon** and **Lord Al Hays** were interviewing **Dory "Hoss" Funk** and **Jimmy Jack Funk** as Dory was demonstrating how to fire up a proper Texas barbecue. McMahon handed the microphone to Hays, who was left to finish the interview alone. Dory gave Hays a taste of the barbecued meat, but Jimmy Jack tried to take it away from him. A scuffle

ensued, after which the Funks dumped a large container of barbecue sauce on Hays. The Funks then took a rope and placed it around Hays' neck, tightening the noose until Hays seemed to be choking. Aside from the utter ridiculousness of this incident, I wonder if this means that Hays will be making a wrestling comeback against Dory (their feud dates back quite a few years—check out the "Golden Moment" in the Fall 1986 edition of our *Wrestling 86* sister publication).

Carlos Colon no longer holds the WWF Universal title. The championship was declared vacant when Colon was unable to defend the title after being seriously injured by **Abdullah The Butcher**. The Butcher threw ammonia in Colon's eyes, leaving Carlos temporarily blinded. Colon has about 50 percent vision back right now, and the doctor's prognosis is for a full recovery... Speaking of Abdullah, the Sudanese madman is now wrestling in the World Class

area, as is **Blackjack Mulligan**. We also hear that **Killer Brooks** is headed there, and **Butch Reed** is negotiating to come to the area ... **Dino Bravo** is recovering well from the appendicitis attack that kept him out of the **Jim Crockett Sr.** Memorial Cup tag team tournament. Bravo has been anxious to return to the ring, but doctors have told him to remain out of action for at least four more weeks.

Iceman Parsons and **Tiger Conway Jr.** are the current Texas All-Star USA tag team champions ... **Rip Rogers** has defeated **Dutch Mantell** for the Mid-America title ... The bond between **Hiro Matsuda** and **Lex Luger** seems to be dissolving, though this development has little to do with Luger's recent conversion to fan favorite. It seems that Matsuda feels that he has trained Luger as much as necessary, and that the big man is ready to step out on his own. Luger may not be ready to solo yet, though, as he's been coming to the ring with **Bob Roop** recently.

Kareem Muhammad is now wrestling in Florida ... **Billy Jack Haynes** was stripped of the Pacific Northwest title after cancelling his match with NWA champion Ric Flair and stating his intention of leaving the area ... **Bobby Jagers** has signed to wrestle in the Texas All-Star area, and will be leaving the Pacific Northwest after a few more weeks there ... In what could hardly be considered a surprise move, **Harley Race** has been stripped of the Missouri title by the NWA. A tournament will be held to determine a new champion ... Speaking of tournaments, I absolutely have to lash out at several promotions once again: Where are the long-promised tournaments to determine new U.S. tag team champions, World Class tag team champions, and National tag team champions? Let's go, people, this is getting absurd!

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! ☐

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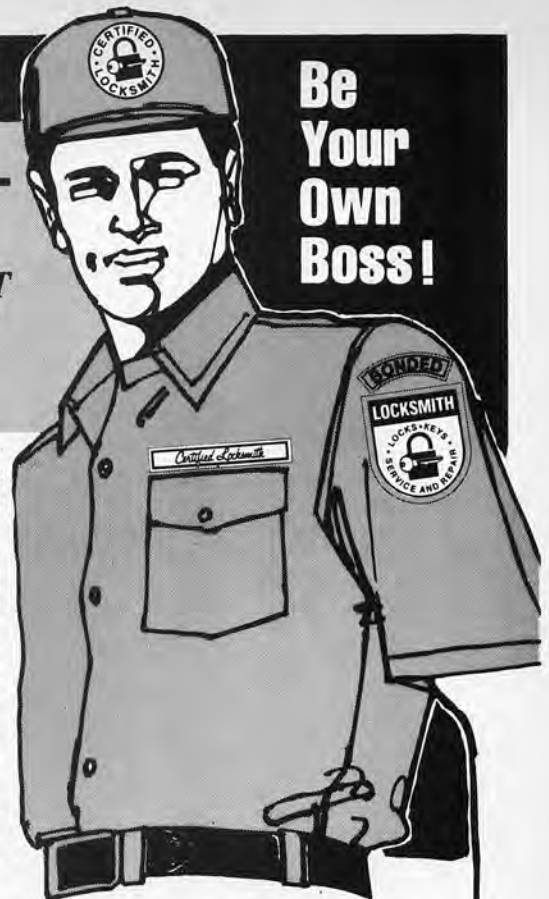
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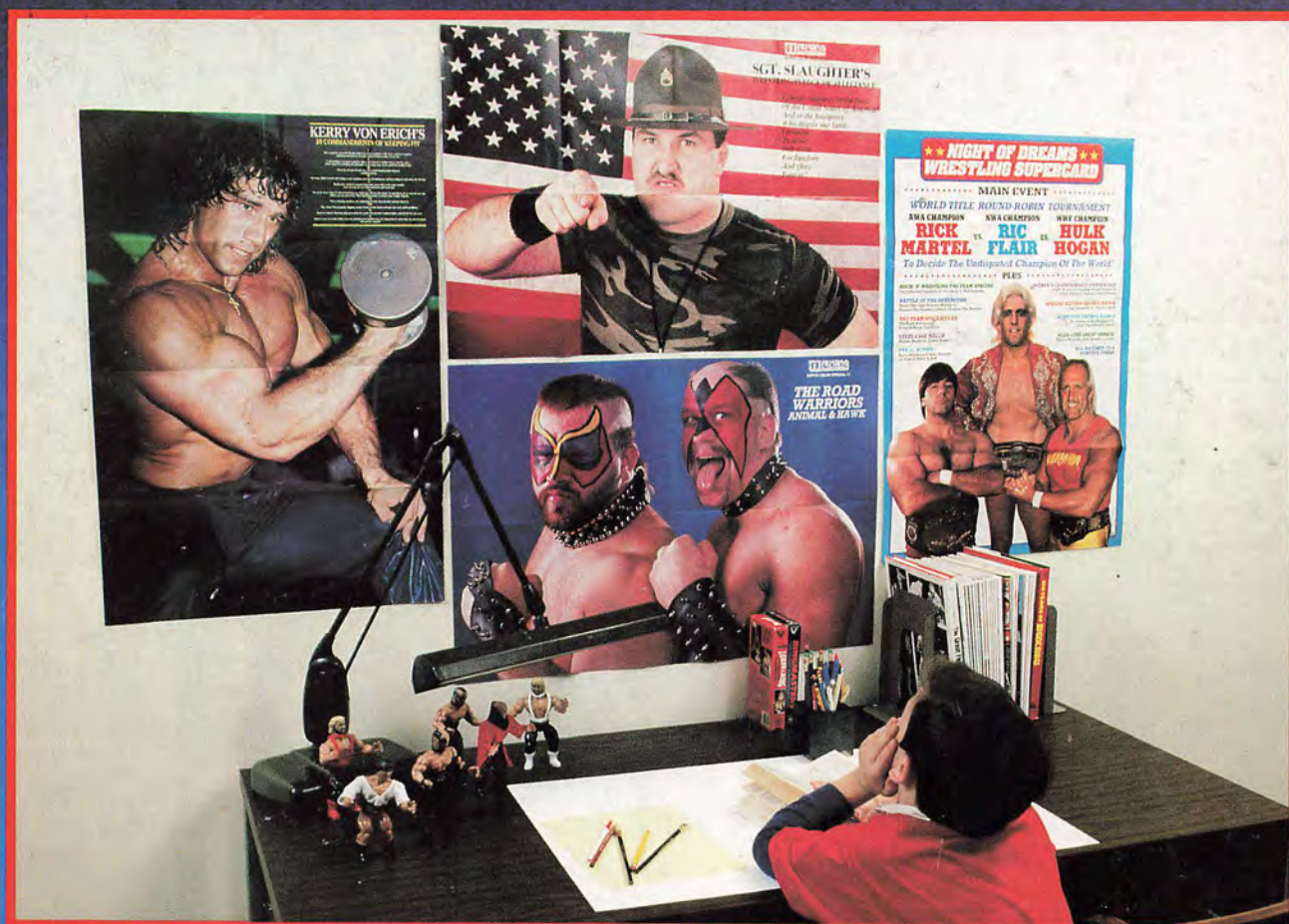
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